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Inter-Arab Affairs

Officials Arrive for Foreign Ministers Meeting

Arab League's Ibrahimi

NC3008070390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0015 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Lakhdar Ibrahimi, assistant secretary general of the Arab League, arrived in Cairo tonight to attend the meetings of the emergency conference of Arab foreign ministers, which will open 30 August in Cairo.

Morocco's Filali

LD3008135890 Rabat MAP in English 1229 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, Aug. 30 (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali arrived here Wednesday [29 August] to partake in the Arab League Ministerial Council emergency session that will discuss, pursuant to a decision of the emergency Arab summit of last August 10, a report by the League secretary general on the implementation of the decisions made by the said summit on the Gulf crisis.

Filali deplored, in a statement to the media upon arrival, the imposed transfer of the Moroccan embassy staff from Kuwait to Baghdad and their treatment as mere foreign nationals.

As to Morocco's decision to expel two leading figures of the Iraqi Baath party, Filali said the two party members, who are not part of the Iraqi diplomatic mission in Rabat, took advantage of the democratic climate prevailing in Morocco, got in touch with political parties and indulged in undesirable activities.

Bahraini, UAE Ministers

NC3008140090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1113 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah arrived in Cairo at noon today. He will attend the extraordinary Arab foreign ministers conference which is due to begin later today.

In an arrival statement, Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak said that this meeting will pave the way for the Arabs to discuss issues of concern to them and for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. He added: We are meeting today in an attempt to implement the historic resolutions of the emergency Arab summit which was held in Cairo earlier this month. We are hopeful that Iraq will respond to the Arab and international stand by withdrawing from Kuwait and restoring the situation which existed on 1 August. We are saying this for the good of Arab security.

He explained that the Arab nation's future will be affected if the current trend continues. He pointed out that the Arab foreign ministers meeting is the third attempt by the Arab world to close its ranks and call on Iraq to retract its illegal measures which have been rejected by the world.

The Bahraini foreign minister said the UN Security Council resolutions are clear and all we, the Arabs, want is for the UN and the Arab nation's resolutions to be implemented.

He noted: We will discuss Iraq's withdrawal and ways of attaining a peaceful solution because, in any event, we do not want a military clash and we want peace with all Arabs.

Answering a question about Iraq's absence from the foreign ministers conference, he said that the meeting will be held within the framework of the Arab summit and that any country's absence will be its own responsibility. He added: Nevertheless we have hope and will continue our attempts to have Iraq attend the meeting so we may seek a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

[At 1313 GMT on 30 Augusut in another Cairo-datelined item, Cairo MENA in Arabic reports: "Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, minister of state for foreign affairs in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], arrived in Cairo this afternoon to attend the emergency Arab foreign ministers conference which is due to begin today.

["In an arrival statement, al-Nu'aymi said: We are seeking only one thing: a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government. We hope that Iraq will show responsiveness. We will make every possible effort to attain a withdrawal and restore legitimacy.

["Asked about Iraq's absence from the conference, he said: We had hoped Iraq would respond to Arab and international resolutions and the Arab nation's desire because the Arab nation does not support the occupation of one fraternal country by another. We hope the Iraqi withdrawal will take place.

["Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received al-Nu'yami at the airport."]

Somali Foreign Minister

NC3008151790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1401 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Somali Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Hamed [name and title as received] arrived in Cairo this afternoon to attend the Arab foreign ministers conference which will begin this evening. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received the Somali minister on his arrival in Cairo.

Arab Foreign Ministers Meeting Opens in Cairo

NC3008165190 Cairo MENA in English 1643 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, August 30 (MENA)—The Arab foreign ministers started their meeting here tonight. Egypt has called for this meeting in accordance with the seventh article of the emergency Arab summit held in Cairo early this month.

The meeting was attended by foreign ministers and representatives of Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Lebanon, Djibouti, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman Sultanate and Libya.

Present also was Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

The conferees will discuss a report by the Arab League secretary general on points executed of the resolutions of the recent Cairo summit.

Klibi Makes Statement to Press

NC3008214490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—The Arab League Council has called on the Arab states which have plans for resolving the Iraq-Kuwait crisis to participate in the Council's current session in Cairo so that their plans can be discussed and the Council can adopt whatever decisions it deems appropriate regarding them.

In a statement to journalists this evening, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said the Arab League, which is the Arabs' forum, constitutes the proper and sound framework for any initiative made in the name of the Arab states in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Arab League Charter.

He added that any Arab initiative must stem from the Arab League Charter and the traditions of joint Arab action, and be based on the resolution that was adopted by the emergency Arab summit conference that convened in Cairo on 10 August and that contained the principles of the Arab solution.

The Arab League secretary general noted that foremost among the principles of the Arab solution are the calls for an unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory, the nonrecognition of Iraq's decision to annex Kuwait or of any other consequences of the Iraqi forces' invasion of Kuwaiti territory, and adherence to the restoration of the legitimate system of government that existed in Kuwait before the invasion.

He said that at its meetings today, the Arab League Council reviewed the statements that have been made about the efforts by some Arab parties to find a solution to the Arab Gulf crisis that has resulted from Iraq's occupation of the state of Kuwait.

He added that the Council believes that the Arab League is the Arabs' forum and it constitutes the proper and sound framework for any initiative that is made in the name of the Arab states in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Arab League Charter.

Klibi said in his statement that the Council decided to continue its meetings at 1800 tomorrow, Friday, and that the six-member drafting committee will also meet at 1000 tomorrow.

Klibi Presents Report

NC3008180590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—MENA has learned that the report Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi is presenting to the Arab foreign ministers council that is currently convening here contains four principal points. The first point defines every state's stand regarding the emergency summit resolutions and the measures each state has taken to implement these resolutions.

The second point concerns the reasons that prevented some states from participating in the current ministerial council meeting. The third point reviews all the responses the secretary general has received from the various Arab states regarding the emergency summit resolutions.

The fourth point presents a comprehensive overview of the Arab states' stand on the summit resolutions.

The meeting was chaired by Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak al-Khatir because Palestine, the current chairman of the Arab League Council session, is absent and Qatar is next in alphabetical order.

Further on Klibi Report

NC3008204190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has announced that Iraq refuses to implement the third clause of the Arab summit resolution which calls for the immediate withdrawal of its forces from Kuwaiti territory and returning these forces to their original positions.

While submitting his report to the Arab foreign ministers meeting which began in Cairo this evening, Klibi said a number of Arab League members have proclaimed their commitment to implementing the UN Security Council resolution. He added that a number of member countries have also announced that they are adhering to the rulings of clauses three, four, and five of the Arab summit resolution which condemn the aggression, reject its consequences, emphasize Kuwait's sovereignty, support all the measures taken by the legitimate government, and denounce the Iraqi threats to the Arab Gulf countries and declare solidarity with them.

Klibi stressed the need to avert the imminent catastrophes that will not be restricted to a part of our Arab nation but will instead affect the whole Arab nation and all pan-Arab interests. He emphasized the need to remove the dangerous clouds gathering in the Arab sky by looking for solutions based on the principles enshrined in the Arab League Charter.

He declared that a truth unanimously accepted by the Arab countries, regardless of various interpretations, is that it is not permissible for an Arab to use arms against a brother or for an Arab country to attack a fraternal state.

Klibi added the Arab resolution was perfectly clear in affirming its support and full assistance for Kuwait's sovereignty and demanding an Iraqi withdrawal and the restoration of the situation that existed before 2 August.

Klibi said one truth which he is sure enjoys the unanimous support of our countries is the profound conviction of the need to rule out military confrontation and the shedding of Arab blood. Klibi said three Arab countries responded to Saudi Arabia's request to dispatch Arab forces to assist it.

The Arab League secretary general said that despite all the imminent dangers, he is confident of the Arab will's ability to surmount all difficulties and challenges and that it will succeed in finding solutions capable of preserving the unity of the Arab family and the continuation of the collective Arab endeavor.

Klibi pointed out that the seventh clause called for instructing the Arab League secretary general to follow up on the implementation of the summit resolution, and that in accordance with this clause and immediately after the adoption of the resolution, all member countries were requested to report on what provisions of the resolution had been implemented. He added: In messages to the foreign ministers, I stressed the need to supply all information that they consider important in their reports.

Klibi asserted that the Arab League secretariat has so far received replies from eight countries: Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Qatar, Egypt, and Kuwait. He said the report which has been distributed includes two parts: the first detailing the Arab League secretariat's contacts with the member countries and a summary of the responses it received, and the second including the full texts of the memorandums sent by the eight countries.

The Arab League secretary general concluded his report by declaring: We have a collective sense of pan-Arab responsibility that enjoins us to make the utmost efforts and exhaust all possible means to remedy the current crisis in line with our nation's values and principles and the bonds that hold it together.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Speaks

NC3008200790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)– -Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has asserted that the primary cause of the presence of foreign forces in the region is Iraq's aggressive and expansionist policy and the lack of an intrinsic Arab ability to confront this aggression.

In his address to the Arab foreign ministers meeting, Shaykh al-Sabah said that if this cause is eliminated, then there will be no reason for a foreign presence in the region.

The Kuwaiti official accused the Iraqi regime of driving the region into numerous labyrinths, provoking hardline attitudes, and fomenting a serious escalation, not merely in the region but in the entire world.

He affirmed that by hiding behind human hostages from all countries and using them as bargaining chips under feeble pretexts in a situation it had brought upon itself, the Iraqi regime demonstrates its immoral political confusion and distorts the Arab image.

Shaykh al-Sabah accused the Iraqi regime of seeking to drag the region, the Arab nation, and the world into the inferno of a new war that will destroy everything and take our Arab nation back to the age of backwardness, ignorance, and the law of the jungle.

He added that the Iraqi regime brought groups of mercenaries to settle them in the place of innocent citizens in order to alter Kuwait's demographic structure with the aim of consolidating the occupation and annexation. He noted that Iraq is altering the features of the country in a way which we have seen the enemies of our Arab nation use.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah said the participation of the brothers in this meeting embodies true Arab solidarity arising from noble pan-Arab principles that seek to confront the most perilous ordeal facing the Arab world since the Arab League was established. He emphasized history will not forgive rebels and manipulators; nor will it forgive those who refrain from adopting a clear and firm stand vis-a-vis the gravest issue to face our Arab world.

'Abd-al-Majid Speaks

NC3008191390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1806 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that today's meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Cairo was being held to learn about the measures the Arab states have taken to implement the resolutions that were adopted by the emergency Arab summit that was held in Cairo on 10 August to discuss the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In a speech to the Arab foreign ministers conference this evening, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that the meeting embodies the determination to mend the rupture that has befallen the pan-Arab system in the wake of Iraq's occupation of fraternal Kuwait's territory.

In this respect, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid indicated that the Arab people and all peoples of the world have been unanimous in calling on Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwaiti territory and on stressing the need to restore the legitimate government in Kuwait.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that, in this pan-Arab endeavor to emerge from the crisis we are now experiencing because of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Egypt's will has been in harmony with the will of the Arab leaders and the Arab people's aspirations to resume the march of Arab solidarity and preserve pan-Arab security. He indicated that the era of international detente we are now experiencing has proven that resort to force or the threat of force to settle disputes among states will lead to destruction and death.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that today's meeting is being held while we are armed with an unwavering will to support what is right and to stand on the side of the victim of aggression, out of respect for our Arab and international contractual commitments and out of loyalty to the Arab League and its Charter.

He added that withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait can provide an opportunity for a new beginning that will preserve joint Arab action. It also can provide a bold beginning for all Arab states and people to embark on the path of constructive interaction within the new international system.

He said that compliance with the Kuwaiti people's will and the restoration of the legitimate government in Kuwait will not be a defeat for anyone, but rather a victory for all. It will be proof of maturity in dealing with an Arab and international situation which, as the events we have experienced have shown, does not condone annexation and the efforts being made to erase Kuwait's identity.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the meeting is not held to deepen estrangement and division, but because of our common goal to crystallize a sincere and noble pan-Arab stand to overcome this crisis.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that the nonparticipation of some Arab states in today's meeting is a real loss for the Arab League and for the philosophy of joint Arab action. He said that fate has willed that we shoulder the great responsibility of maintaining the Arab League entity and that we act to consolidate pan-Arab security.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister noted in his speech at the conference that the states that are participating in today's meeting are the ones that have defended the casues of their great nation, that are still raising the banners of pan-Arab struggle in times of war and peace, and that have always chosen the path of freedom, justice, and right for all the Arab people.

Concluding his speech, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed the hope that God will grant the Arabs success in enduring this major pan-Arab tribulation and that the Kuwaiti people will return to their homeland so that all of us may resume our pan-Arab march to enable the Palestinians to fulfill their great national dream.

Bahraini Minister Speaks

NC3008201890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1853 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah has emphasized that the Arab nation, in its contemporary history, has never encountered a situation that is more delicate than the one it is now facing because a major Arab army, in the establishment and strengthening of which the fraternal Arab states participated in order to defend the Arab homeland's eastern gates, invaded and occupied the fraternal state of Kuwait.

In a speech at the Arab League council meetings this evening, the minister said this invasion has displaced Kuwait's peaceful people, wrecked its institutions and gains, and plundered its resources.

He affirmed that the Arab solution to this crisis is clear and firm. It emphasizes abidance by the Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions that call for condemning the aggression and for not recognizing annexation. It also calls for the unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces and emphasizes Kuwait's sovereignty and restoration of the legitimate regime.

He declared his country's denunciation of Iraqi threats against the Arab states and its condemnation of the Iraqi concentrations along the borders with Saudi Arabia.

The Bahraini minister addressed a message to the Iraqi leaders, calling on them to reconsider their stands and to implement the resolutions of the recent Arab summit as well as the UN Security Council resolutions that have been adopted by the states of the world, because there is no alternative to complying with these resolutions in order to spare the Arab nation a catastrophe in which the Iraqi people will be the first losers.

The Bahraini minister saluted the Egyptian people and their President Husni Mubarak who, as soon as the crisis erupted, called for containing it and for working to resolve it within the Arab framework.

Statement To Be Issued 31 Aug

NC3008202690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1908 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—The Arab League's ministerial council will resume its meetings tomorrow when the final statement being prepared by a six-member committee will be issued. The statement is expected to emphasize that the Arab League is the basis for a solution of all Arab problems, and that it is working to unite the Arab nation

and not divide it. The statement is also expected to explain the general outlines of any action.

Ambassador 'Adil Salih, director of political affairs at the Arab League, stated that the present Arab situation demands greater cooperation within the League in its capacity as the forum at which the Arabs can express their anger and differences. He explained that there is a minimum of agreement among the Arab states in the League represented in the permanent committees and the periodic meetings.

Ambassador Salih said that the Arab states have tried regional groupings, such as the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union, but it has been proven that there is no alternative to the Arab League in its capacity as the umbrella under which all Arabs can shelter.

Kuwaiti Minister Comments

NC3108055190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that Iraq rejects all peaceful solutions.

In a statement after the Arab foreign ministers meeting tonight, the Kuwaiti minister expressed hope that an Arab solution will be found to the Iraq-Kuwait problem. However, he said: "There is no Arab solution so far."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad also expressed hope that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Amman tomorrow will be successful.

Syrian, Qatari Ministers Comment

NC3108053990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has affirmed that the purpose of the Arab foreign ministers meeting is to crystallize a unified Arab stand on the Gulf issue so that a peaceful solution to the crisis may be found within the Arab framework.

He added that this stand will define the Arab states' position regarding all the proposed initiatives for solving the crisis.

Meanwhile, Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Mubarak al-Khatir expressed hope that the meeting will achieve positive results.

In a statement after the foreign ministers meeting, the Qatari minister indicated that some Arab states have not clearly crystallized their stand, that they should clarify their stand, and that they should put it in writing because some states have opposed the emergency Arab summit's resolution and others have expressed reservations about it. He said that these states must clarify their stands in writing.

ACC's Nammar on Members' 'Difference of Opinion'

NC3008113990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 30 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Hilmi Nammar, secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] has disclosed that the ACC general secretariat received a message from Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran, who is the chairman of the current ACC ministerial council session, in which he proposed the postponement of the Ministerial Council meeting that was due to be held in Amman on 8 September.

In an interview with MENA, Dr. Nammar said that the general secretariat will inform the prime ministers of the ACC member states that the ACC summit, due to be held in Baghdad next October, has also been postponed.

The ACC secretary general denied reports that an ACC member state has decided to withdraw from the organization. He noted that all member states, with the exception of Yemen, have paid their contributions to the ACC budget.

Meanwhile, Dr. Hilmi Nammar issued a statement saying that the ACC general secretariat will remain neutral on the current Iraq-Iran crisis and will refrain from taking a position supporting one country against another. He noted that there is a difference of opinion among members states on the way to tackle the Gulf crisis.

Dr. Nammar said that the statements issued by the council express the common views of the member states, adding that any statement issued by an ACC official will only express the personal views of that official. He referred in this context to the statement by ACC Assistant Secretary General Hisham Hasan. Hisham Hasan today issued a statement saying that the United States is trying to impose its hegemony on the Arab nation and the oil fields and to impede Arab progress. He called for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and for cooperation among Arab countries to find an appropriate solution to the situation in the Gulf.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Soviet Envoy Sytenko

LD3008175590 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received Mr. Mikhail Sytenko, the special envoy of the Soviet leadership, and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, brother Abu-'Ammar asserted the need for a political solution within the framework of the Arab family, to exclude a military solution, and prevent a destructive war in the region. The brother president also reviewed with the Soviet envoy the Palestinian initiative aimed at resolving the Gulf crisis. Mr. Sytenko, for his part, informed brother 'Abu Ammar about the efforts being exerted by the Soviet Union to find a political solution to the crisis.

PFLP-GC Calls for Confronting U.S. in Gulf

LD3008204190 Baghdad International Service in English 2000 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, in Beirut, called to study all means to confront the American troops which want to occupy Arab oil fields and colonize the region (?anew). The front considers that the Arab silence on the Zionists' desecration of Jerusalem has encouraged the U.S. Administration to send its troops to the holy territory.

'Abd-Rabbuh Warns Against U.S. Attack on Iraq

JN3008151490 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 30 Aug 90 pp 16, 20

[Text] Amman—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO's Information Department, has said that breaking the economic blockade imposed on Iraq is an Arab responsibility, stressing that this blockade will not lead to a political solution as Western circles imagine.

At a news conference in Amman last night, 'Abd-Rabbuh expressed the need to resolve all problems in the region, including the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question.

Addressing the Western countries that are currently ganging up against the region, he said: "Take Arab oil and give us peace." Thus, he referred to the Arab rights without which there can be no peace in the region.

He said that aggression against Iraq is aggression against Palestine and the entire Arab nation that must be confronted with all our means. He pointed out that the aggression will not be a picnic like those the United States has had in more than one place in the world.

He added that the possibility of war is not slim and that the military buildup and fleets might spark off war at any moment. However, he said that the Americans will not be able to achieve their aims through a quick, lightning attack as they think, because several other fronts will erupt in their faces.

Moreover, he said that during this crisis Israel has failed to play its "police role" in the region, yet it might become a hired killer. He said that the Israeli role in the current scenario has deliberately become marginal, yet it will have a major role in the coming scenario. He added that the Israeli role has been hidden behind the curtains so that a prominent Israeli role would not provoke Arab feelings against the invaders.

On implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions on financial support for the intifadah, he said that the problem is serious and we are now faced with the need to employ all Arab resources to solve the Palestine question and other issues instead of allowing these resources to turn into a threat to us.

He pointed to the efforts exerted by the PLO, along with several Arab countries, including Jordan, to resolve the Gulf crisis within the Arab framework.

He said that we must mainly be concerned with facing the foreign invasion and aggression, and he stressed that the issue of threats to the Arab nation in its entirety must be an essential component of the Arab solution within a joint Arab defense.

He said there are still chances to reach a balanced, political solution to the crisis and that the factors of this balanced solution are included in President Saddam Husayn's initiative.

He asked: Why can an integrated solution for the Gulf conflict not be reached on the basis of this initiative?

'Abd-Rabbuh also said that there is an unbreakable relationship between the Gulf crisis and the other issues in the region. He added that the Americans believed that after suspending their dialogue with us their interests in the region would be protected, but they were surprised by the explosion that took place in a different place, this time in the Gulf.

He asked: Why are there no efforts by several international sides to confer with Iraq and find a common basis for a political solution that would spare the region all the horrors of war?

PLO Declines To Participate in Cairo Meeting

NC3008115290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0844 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 30 Aug (MENA)—The PLO has notified the Arab League's General Secretariat that it will not take part in the emergency meeting of the league's ministerial council, due to open in Cairo tonight.

In a statement published here today, a responsible Palestinian source said that the PLO's decision to boycott the Arab foreign ministers' meeting is due to "its voting during the summit against the resolutions that were passed."

Political observers noted a clear contradiction in the statement by the Palestinian official, for the official PLO position on the Cairo summit decision, as relayed to the League's general secretariat, was "abstention from voting."

The League's general secretariat had notified the permanent delegates of the member countries of the summit's resolutions and the position of every country on these resolutions. The secretariat said that the PLO "abstained" from voting.

International Poll Measures Support for Iraq

TA2908115390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Aug 90 p 10

[ITIM Report]

[Text] Some 90 percent of Palestinians in Arab countries support Saddam Husayn: 5 percent are unhappy with his behavior; and the remaining 5 percent have no opinion. This was the upshot of a telephone poll conducted last weekend by Solan Communications, an Israeli media company, among some 500 Palestinians in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Algeria, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates.

Algeria

Nation Abstains From Arab League Meeting

LD3008122590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The emergency meeting of Arab League foreign ministers will begin this evening in Cairo without the participation of Algeria.

Arab Ambassadors Urge Peaceful Solution to Crisis

LD3008140390 Algiers APS in English 1018 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 30 August (APS)—The latest developments of the situation in the Gulf and the efforts made at different levels to find a peaceful solution to the crisis, were in the center of a meeting held here yesterday by a number of Arab ambassadors accredited to Algeria at the invitation of the Popular Association for Unity and Work. Ambassadors from Kuwait, [the United] Arab Emirates, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Syria and Morocco took part in this meeting.

By the end of this meeting, a communique was issued underlining the necessity to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis within an Arab frame as well as the immediate withdrawal of the Iraqi army from Kuwait.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Lauds Soviet Stance on Iraq

PM3008154990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Aug 90 p 3

[Report by Sami 'Imarah: "Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Confirm Agreement Between Egyptian and Soviet Positions"]

[Excerpts] Moscow, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—[passage omitted] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, about his assessment of the Soviet position in the light of his talks with his Soviet opposite number Eduard Shevardnadze and his meeting with President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that "since the crisis started, the Soviet Union has been clear in its position, represented by its eagerness to take all the necessary measures and procedures to tackle that crisis within the framework of legitimacy, that is, the UN framework—a position which agrees with the position adopted by Egypt. Since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait started on 2 August, the Soviet Union has been logical with itself regarding its moves at the Security Council, its position on the sanctions and other resolutions adopted by the Security Council, and its position on the embassies' situation and foreign nationals."

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid went on to say: "Full support of international legitimacy and eagerness to exhaust all peaceful political means are clear in the Soviets' statements and stances. They totally reject the Iraq invasion and its results. They also reject the method of detaining foreign nationals. Egyptian and Soviet views on this are in agreement." [passage omitted]

On the main objective of his visit, the Egyptian deputy prime minister said that he "handed over a personal message from President Husni Mubarak to President Mikhail Gorbachev." Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that "the Soviet leadership's appreciation of Egypt's role and political efforts was great," and that he "encountered from it a great response to the content of President Husni Mubarak's message, full confidence in his way of dealing with and handling the crisis, and the Soviet Union's eagerness to coordinate with Egypt."

The Egyptian foreign minister added: "I sensed that the relationship between Presidents Mubarak and Gorbachev strengthened substantially as a result of their meeting in Moscow. And we are anxious that this should extend to other fields." He emphasized that "undoubtedly under its present policy the Soviet Union is anxious to affirm its endeavors for peace and development—which is reflected in its decisive and frank stances on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait." He also emphasized the countries' commitment to all the resolutions adopted by the Security Council in that regard. [passage omitted]

Columnist Cites Bush on 'Destroying' Saddam

NC3008154090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0335 GMT 30 Aug 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Citing American friends who discussed the Gulf crisis with U.S. President George Bush, Mustafa Amin writes in his daily "An Opinion" column in AL-AKHBAR that the U.S. President believes that there can be no solution but war and that reaching some agreement with Saddam today only means putting off the crisis until some time more suitable for him.

Amin adds: The occupation of Kuwait is not the whole problem. The problem is that a latter-day Hitler with insatiable ambitions has emerged in the region. Saddam wants the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, and unless we take action he will take hold of the largest oil reserves. Saddam, as Bush puts it, threatens the security of the entire world.

Saddam, as the whole world agrees, does not fear anyone and does not heed laws or international consensus. Saddam has roused the suspicions of most countries. Therefore, Bush believes that destroying Saddam Husayn's rule and ensuring that no new Saddams emerge in the region is substantially more important than destroying the military power of Iraq or its chemical weapons. Never before in history has a majority of world countries stood against one man as is happening today.

Paper Urges Perez de Cuellar Not To Meet 'Aziz

NC3008152990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0335 GMT 30 Aug 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "A Meeting Undermined in Advance," AL-AKHBAR reviews the actions of President Saddam Husayn and notes his insistence on swallowing Kuwait, despite the consequences for Iraq and the Iraqi people. Saddam, the paper says, is refusing to listen to reason and avert a confrontation with the entire world.

AL-AKHBAR notes that UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar intends to hold talks with Tariq 'Aziz, a faithful disciple of Saddam Husayn, to seek the Iraqi Government's cooperation in the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the crime of the occupation of Kuwait and the threat of its wealth. The resolutions call for the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government.

However, the paper adds, Saddam wanted to spoil his faithful disciple's meeting with the UN secretary general before it took place. He issued a presidential decree proclaiming Kuwait, a member state of the United Nations, a province of Iraq and changing its name and the names of its cities, names known to the world for so many years.

The paper says that Saddam's actions make it clear to the entire world that he is determined to stick by his follies and stupidities till the end. The paper advises Perez de Cuellar to cancel his meeting with Tariq 'Aziz in response to such foolhardiness.

151,000 Returnees Transported via Jordan 8-29 Aug

NC3008150790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport and communications and supervisor of the operations room that is extending services to citizens returning from Kuwait and Iraq, has stated that four ferries arrived in Nuwaybi' and one ferry arrived in Suez yesterday. They were carrying 4,361 citizens and 734 vehicles. He added that an additional 6,414 people arrived at Cairo Airport from al-'Aqabah and Amman on board Egyptian, Saudi, German, Belgian, EEC, and Libyan planes. They were subsequently transported by bus and train to their governorates. He said that 151,000 Egyptian returnees from Iraq and Kuwait have been transported from the Iraqi-Jordanian border between 8 and 29 August.

New Round of Talks With IMF Begins in Cairo

NC2808210190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—A new round of talks between Egypt and the IMF began in Cairo today to review a number of studies and memorandums prepared by the Ministry of International Cooperation on the effects of the current situation in the Gulf on the Egyptian economy, particularly in light of premilinary signs of a drop in a number of principal revenues in the state's public budget.

Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, met yesterday with a number of IMF executive directors. U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner attended the meeting.

An informed economic source said that the current talks with the IMF will include a number of points related to the important steps taken by the Egyptian government to reform the structure of the Egyptian economy and reduce the deficit in the state budget which now runs at 12.3 percent.

The source added that the talks are expected also to include the possibility of raising the interest rate on local currency deposits and savings to 18.25 percent and the means of raising the level of production and eliminating causes for price increases.

The reports that preceded the arrival of the IMF team in Cairo indicated there is a deep understanding by IMF management in Washington of the serious steps taken by Egypt to effect the economic reform plan. These reports noted that another high-level IMF team is expected to arrive in Cairo in the next two weeks to discuss the final steps for signing the letter of intentions between the two sides. This will enable Egypt to receive around $150 million to reform the imbalance in the balance of payments. After signing the letter, Egypt will also be able to obtain loans from the International Bank totaling $300 million to be allocated for agricultural and industrial projects within the framework of the development plan.

It is known that Egypt's agreement with the IMF will enable the Egyptian government to obtain new loans and aid from European governments for financing development plans. One condition made by these countries was an agreement between Egypt and the IMF that notes the Egyptian economy's ability to fulfill its foreign commitments to these countries.

Libya

Involvement in Palestinian Attack on Israel Denied

LD3008154190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Aug (JANA)—A responsible source at the People's Bureau of Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has denied allegations about Libya, as described in a document released by the U.S. State Department, on the attack launched from the sea on the coast of Tel Aviv in occupied Palestine on 30 May by a Palestinian organization.

The source stressed that these accusations are groundless and that the Great Jamahiriyah has previously denied any connection with the aforementioned attack in a statement made by the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau of Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation on 1 June 1990 and in a statement issued by the People's Bureau of Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation on 6 June 1990.

The source commented that it is not a coincidence that such a document should be issued at this particular time, and that any objective analyst would easily realize that the aim behind it is to divert the world's attention from what is taking place in the Gulf region and silence Arab voices that are condemning and rejecting foreign intervention in the region.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Yasir 'Arafat 30 Aug

LD3108083190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, 31 Aug (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution yesterday evening received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat [words indistinct]. The meeting was attended by the Palestinian [word indistinct] to the Great Jamahiriyah.

[Words indistinct] Palestinian president arrived in Tripoli yesterday on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah [words indistinct].

Al-Qadhdhafi To Propose Gulf Peace Initiative

LD3108102390 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0940 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, 31 Aug, JANA—JANA has learned that the brother leader will propose an initiative for a peaceful solution to the Gulf problem during the 21st anniversary of the great September revolution.

JANA also learned the initiative the brother leader will propose comes after recent Arab talks, particularly talks between Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council in fraternal Sudan, and Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, as well as talks the brother leader held with Jordanian King Husayn during his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah 26-27 August and with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat when he was (?received) by the brother leader yesterday.

Senior Official Criticizes PLO Stand on Crisis

NC3108102890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—MENA has learned that a senior Libyan official has strongly criticized the Palestinian stand on the Gulf crisis.

At a meeting with a Palestinian leader, the Libyan official said: You have fought Syria and other countries for a long time in order to maintain the independence of Palestinian decision making. But in this crisis, you have handed over your independence to Iraq and you have become its lackey.

MENA has also learned that the Libyan official asked that this criticism be conveyed to the Palestinian leadership.

Mauritania

King Husayn Ends Visit, Comments on Talks

AB3008182590 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Yesterday, His Majesty Ibn-Tala Husayn, king of Jordan, made a short visit to our country during which he and Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya held talks behind closed doors. In a statement to newsmen prior to his departure from Nouakchott, King Husayn stressed that he and the head of state shared the same views on the issues discussed and on the solutions to (?current problems).

Answering a question on Arab subregional organizations, King Husayn observed that he had noted a similarity of views between himself and the leaders of the countries he has visited concerning the fact that the problems confronting us should be solved among ourselves.

Concerning the outcome of this visit and bilateral relations, the Jordanian king stressed that these relations are fraternal and examplary, and expressed (?satisfaction) with this brief but memorable visit and the hope that such a meeting with his brother and friend would take place in Jordan, which is also his host's second fatherland.

He then expressed his gratitude to the head of state and to all the sons of this part of our great Arab nation for the warm reception accorded him. In conclusion, he reasserted the unity of the Arab nation, stressing that the Arab people are one and indivisible.

King Husayn was accompanied by a high-ranking delegation including, among others, Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, principal private secretary to the king; and 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, political adviser to his majesty.

Morocco

King Husayn Discusses Crisis With King Hassan

JN3008143290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Moroccan side, under His Majesty King Hassan II, held talks last night focusing on the Arab situation, the Gulf crisis, and the means to settle this crisis within the Arab framework.

Attending for the Jordanian side were Prime Minister Mudar Badran, al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, the king's political adviser.

Seen Off by Crown Prince

LD3008134290 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Excerpt] King Husayn of Jordan left Morocco this morning. He was seen off at Rabat-Sale airport by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed. [passage omitted]

Deputies Back Government Stance, Condemn Invasion

LD3008125690 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 30 (MAP)—The Moroccan mp's [members of parliament] Wednesday [29 August] voiced backing to Morocco's stand on the Gulf crisis and condemned the invasion and annexation of Kuwait by Iraq.

At the end of a meeting of three parliamentary committees, namely of the interior, of foreign affairs and national defense and of culture and Islamic affairs, devoted to examining the development of the situation in the Gulf, the mp's released a joint statement condemning the invasion of the state of Kuwait as an act contrary to international conventions and practices, an act violating peoples' rights and harming Arab causes.

The members of the three parliamentary committees called for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and condemned the ill-treatment Iraqi authorities inflicted to the Moroccan diplomats accredited to Kuwait and to all the embassy staff. This behaviour is perceived as an aggression and a prejudice to Morocco's dignity, the statement said calling for the adoption of all necessary measures to protect and preserve rights of Moroccan nationals.

The mp's also expressed total support to the initiatives made by King Hassan II to serve Arab causes, spare the region a conflict and search means for resolving the conflict in an Arab responsible framework.

Sudan

Spokesman Comments on Al-Bashir's Gulf Initiative

EA3008063890 Khartoun SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Aug (SUNA)—Sudan is taking serious and positive steps to brief fraternal and friendly countries about the initiative of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman, to contain the development of the situation in the Gulf within an Arab framework.

This was announced here today by Mr. Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, minister of culture and information and the government's official spokesman, who further clarified that the provisions of the initiative had been formulated. The U.S. and Saudi ambassadors in Khartoum had been briefed on Sudan's initiative to achieve peace by containing the crisis within the Arab framework.

The official spokesman went on to say that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir would continue his efforts and contacts with Arab heads of state to keep them informed about the proposed solution involving his initiative to allow the Arabs to contain the situation.

Al-Bashir Urges Arab Dialogue in Gulf Crisis

EA3008170590 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman and chairman of the council of ministers, has reiterated that there is no way to resolve the dilemma facing the Arab homeland except by changing the existing anomalous situation and extending bridges of contacts and dialogues between all the Arab states away from the pressure exerted by foreign intervention and threats of war.

His excellency, who was receiving the credentials of Mr. Musallam Bin Bakhit Bin Zaydan, ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to Sudan, went on to say that this deplorable situation could inflict the greatest harm on the whole Arab nation. Lt. Gen. 'Umar added that Sudan continues to appeal for action together with the sincere sons of our Arab nation to contain the crisis within a special Arab framework, in accordance with international law and the UN and Arab League Charters; which stipulate respect for the sovereignty of nations, noninterference in their internal affairs, and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means without resorting to force to resolve differences.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar said that the Arab nation is currently passing through a dangerous moment due to the regrettable developments in the Arab Gulf region which threaten pan-Arab security with great disaster.

His excellency stressed the good relations linking Sudan with the Sultanate of Oman in all fields.

His excellency the ambassador said in his speech that relations between the two countries are historical ones founded on the unity of religion, Arabism, and fraternity. He said his task would be to promote and strengthen relations between the two countries.

Consults With Libyan Envoy

EA3008064690 Khartoum SUNA in English 0909 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 29th August (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, received yesterday the secretary-general of the Libyan brotherhood office in Khartoum, Ramadan 'Ali Bashir. The Libyan diplomat said the meeting comes in the context of

the continuous consultations between the two countries on the current developments in the Arab world.

SPLA Says 29 Officials Arrested, One Executed

EA3008065290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Excerpt] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] intelligence sources in Khartoum have informed Radio SPLA that the National Islamic Front junta arrested 29 government officials, Army soldiers, and policemen on 15 July 1990 in Bahr al-Ghazal administrative area. All are now in Wau prison and have been subjected to severe torture since then. The 29th was an Army corporal, Awad al-Samit, who has already been summarily executed without trial. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President, Italy's De Michelis Discuss Crisis

LD3008134990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali received Gianni de Michelis, Italian minister of foreign affairs and EC ministerial council president, at Carthage presidential palace.

Following the audience, which was attended by Habib Boulares, minister of foreign affairs; and Claudio Morino, Italian ambassador to Tunis; De Michelis told reporters that his meeting with the president falls within the scope of explaining the position of Italy and the EEC regarding the Gulf crisis, and also of being able to learn more about Tunisia's stance in this connection. The Italian foreign minister indicated that their views were identical regarding the need to find a peaceful political and diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis. In conclusion, he said that we strive for cooperation in this matter within the framework of the United Nations and international legitimacy.

Foreign Minister Habib Boulares also conferred this morning with the Italian foreign minister, who stated that they reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis. In this connection he noted that their views were identical regarding reaching a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Newspapers Banned for Slandering Saudi Arabia

LD3008194490 Paris International Service in French 1830 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] According to the authorities, two Tunisian weekly newspapers have been banned for publishing slanderous articles against Saudi Arabia. The two newspapers are EL WATAN and LES ANNONCES.

Kuwait

Resistance Fighter Reports Heavy Iraqi Losses

PM3008115690

[Editorial report]

London BBC Television Network in English at 2130 GMT on 29 August broadcasts in its "Newsnight" program an interview with a Kuwaiti resistance fighter identified as "Sammy," in English, by reporter Peter Snow in London, during a report on the Kuwaiti resistance against Iraq. Snow says: "Tonight I met a man who say's he's a Kuwaiti officer, a resistance fighter with a degree in international law; and he gave me a first-hand account of the war of attrition he says Kuwaitis are waging against the invader."

Snow reports that because nearly all ambulances are still driven by Kuwaitis and Kuwaitis still run two of the country's eight hospitals, the resistance has an accurate picture of the toll it is taking among Iraq's forces.

"Sammy" says: "These have been reporting in earlier days between 30 to 40 casualties, but more recently they have been telling us about 70 casualties between dead and injured on a daily basis." Snow replies: "Seventy Iraqis dead and wounded each day?" "Sammy" says: "Yes." Snow asks: "That's just two of what, eight, nine hospitals in Kuwait?" "Sammy" says: "Yes, two of eight. Yeah, eight." Snow states: "But that's a very high figure. Is that really believable?" "Sammy" answers: "It is very believable, because we basically rely on the statistics provided by doctors, provided by ambulance drivers who are still Kuwaitis, although they have been siezed and controlled by Iraqis. They report what they see."

Snow reports that the resistance gets weapons by storming Iraqi checkpoints and armories. "Sammy" says: "Some members of the resistance have seized weapons depots of the Iraqi Army and they've been using grenades on a mass level. More recently we have this attack on a bus, on a military bus in which up to... it's been reported that up to eighty people were killed."

Video footage of a burning truck is shown, and Snow says that resistance is widespread and highly destructive: It is having an effect on the morale of Iraqi troops. "Sammy" says: "Some of them were ideologically motivated by this thing about them coming to Kuwait to support the revolution but,—having seen what they've been doing in Kuwait, having seen that there was no revolution in the making, that they were not actually supporting the revolution but crushing a regime, crushing a whole experiment in government and having got first-hand knowledge of the Kuwaiti people, having met the Kuwaitis for the first time—they have come to the conclusion that they basically were brainwashed."

Snow reports that except for emergency services staffing, civilians in Kuwait City have stopped working. "Sammy" says: "Kuwait is well known as a financial center and by us not going to work and not conducting the financial affairs we used to conduct and playing this... such a major role in the Gulf, in the finances of the Gulf we are actually depriving them from the ability of using Kuwait for their own means. I mean, what they need out of Kuwait is not such, you know, ideological demands—Kuwait being part of this, of Iraq but rather, you know, to use Kuwait as a financial center, as an economic center. In the long term they will not be able to do that." Snow asks: "So what are you saying? What is your political message, if you like. What is the resistance's political message to Saddam Husayn? "Sammy" replies" "By doing that, we actually are showing to the world that it's not easy to incorporate Kuwait. And that there is time now, basically for our allies, to come in for our help because we basically are demonstrating very credible resistance. It's not necessarily military, because of the ratio of forces. The military is just one aspect of it, but the civilian resistance is, basically, it's a marvellous achievement so far."

Resistance Reportedly Kills 10 Iraqis at Border

NC3008181090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] A Kuwaiti resistance group has carried out a guerrilla operation against the Iraqi occupation forces in Kuwait, killing 10 Iraqi troops and an officer. According to press reports published in Abu Dhabi today, the Kuwaiti resistance men, who were trying to transport a wounded colleague across the Kuwaiti-Saudi border, clashed with the Iraqi troops at Al-Wahrah border point. A female resistance member threw hand grenades at the border post. The Iraqi troops manning the post were killed and the Kuwaiti woman was martyred.

Gulf Papers Cited on Shortages of Foodstuffs

NC3008150090 Paris AFP in English 1444 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, Aug 30 (AFP)—Supplies of basic foodstuffs are running low in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait City and even fishing has ground to a standstill, Gulf newspapers reported Thursday [30 August], citing people who have fled Kuwait.

Bahraini and other Gulf papers said rice, sugar, bread and drinking water were in short supply. Fruit and vegetables were unavailable, except for courgettes, onions and water melons.

Stocks of food from Kuwait have been transferred to Iraq, the reports said.

Fishermen in the emirate, which has a shoreline stretching 290 kilometres (180 miles), were afraid to put out to sea in case of attack by the Iraqi Navy, the reports said.

Al-Ayyam daily reported here that Iraqi forces had seized most fishing boats since the invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

Iraqi officials have said basic foodstuffs would be rationed in Iraq from Saturday [1 September] because of the international trade embargo following the invasion, after which Baghdad annexed Kuwait.

Council of Ministers Continues Meetings

LD2908205590 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 2006 GMT 29 Aug 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message" program]

[Text] The [Kuwait] Council of Ministers continues its meetings under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister. The Council listened to the messages and reports sent by the Kuwaiti embassies abroad. The council made the appropriate decisions concerning these [messages and reports]

Meets 30 Aug

LD3008190390 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The cabinet met today under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister.

Kuwait radio said that the cabinet reviewed a number of special reports and messages from Kuwaiti embassies abroad and took the necessary measures in their regard.

The cabinet also reviewed reports from envoys of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, to Somalia, Djibouti, and Syria, in addition to a report from the minister of housing, Mr. Yahya al-Sumayt and Shaykh Ahmad Hamud, governor of Al-Farwaniyah, regarding their tour of a number of regions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to monitor the situation of Kuwaiti citizens.

Planning Minister on Annexation of Country

LD3008210690 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Interview with Planning Minister Sulayman al-Mutaww'a by Algerian Television reporter Farouk Bellagha in al-Ta'if on 30 August—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Sulayman al-Mutaww'a, in order to follow the development our first [as heard] question will be on what Kuwait's reaction—that of the government in exile and the people—was to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's decision to annex Kuwait to the province of Basrah?

[Al-Mutaww'a] Well, we deem such a decision trivial. He invaded Kuwait and annexed Kuwait to Iraq. So his decision to annex Kuwait to Basrah, to make it a province or a district, is, as far as I am concerned, part of his psychological war through which he thinks he can frighten our compatriots who are still inside. We ascribe no importance to it.

However, in order to obliterate Kuwait, his main objective on the first day of the invasion was to liquidate the royal family. God almighty saved them all. His aim was also to destroy all the institutions, and he believed that the Kuwaiti people would rise in his support and help him. He has yet to see one demonstration in which his picture is carried. He has seen only passive resistance which refuses to deal with this corrupt regime.

Envoy to Morocco on Success of GCC Actions

LD3008150990 Rabat MAP in English 1230 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 30 (MAP)—Kuwaiti ambassador to Morocco 'Abd al-Muhsin Salim al-Harun said Wednesday [29 August] the prevailing Gulf crisis showed the world the extent of political and diplomatic success of actions by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The ambassador added that the GCC, along with Arab forces, succeeded in prompting a firm international attitude condemning the Iraqi invasion and calling for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the re-establishment of legality.

In his statement to the Rabat correspondent of the Qatari News Agency (QNA), the Kuwaiti ambassador said Iraq made a big mistake by pretending that Kuwait was part of its territory, which is thoroughly wrong since both countries had diplomatic representations and are members to the Arab League, the UNO, the Non-aligned Movement and to the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Regarding the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf, the Kuwaiti diplomat said this resulted from the invasion and the Iraqi threats which considerably harmed Arab solidarity and the Palestinian cause.

King Husayn Chided for Criticizing U.S. Presence

PM2908150990 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 27 Aug 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Excuse Me, Your Majesty!"; formerly Kuwait Al-ANBA']

[Text] When I listened to you yesterday I asked myself, and so did millions of Arabs: Is it real or a dream? Who is that Arab speaking about his rejection of the presence of foreign fleets and forces? Is he Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, Shukri al-Quwwatli, or 'Abd-al-Salam 'Arif, the martyr of Iraq? We said: Perhaps that voice is recorded by someone else, but we soon realized that it was your own voice, Your Venerable Majesty.

We asked ourselves: Who is that Arab knight who has emerged from the gate of history to declare Jordan's rejection of the presence of foreign fleets and forces? We said that you had an excuse for what you said because

you were not there when the British—and they are not Arabs—set up an emirate which they called East Jordan. They amputated it from the territory of the motherland, Syria, during their search for a place to shelter a crown that had fallen and a throne that had disappeared. We also said that you had an excuse because you were not there when your grandfather, King 'Abdallah, God have mercy on him, was killed by a Palestinian fighter's bullets as punishment for his forfeiture of Palestine, the Palestinian people's rights, and Palestine's banners. We also found an excuse for you, namely, that you were an adolescent when His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal called Marshall Butler, chief of staff of the joint British forces, in October 1953 to consolidate the pillars of the throne which had started to shake in the face of the fighters' outcries.

And once again we found an excuse for your position on the presence of the foreign fleets and forces as you were continuing your studies in Britain, when His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal sought help from the 6th Fleet on 14 July 1958, because he feared that Iraq's revolution might sweep Husayn's throne away after Faysal's throne.

So listen to us, Your Highness the Crown Prince and the next king of Jordan—that is, if Jordan, which we love, remains unharmed and is not granted a brotherly and fraternal invasion by Saddam Husayn—listen to us, Your Royal Highness, because we love Jordan and the Jordanian people, and we do not forget that the Jordanian Army, before other armies, supported us against 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim's threat to occupy Kuwait and against his declaration of the annexation of Kuwait to Iraq. May God have mercy on him, even though there is very limited mercy for invaders.

Yes, Your Highness, we want to ask you: If you reject the foreign fleets' presence, why not ask yourself who brought these fleets? There are coincidences in history which the mind cannot explain. Amazing! Divine predestination intended that the first Arab leader to seek help from and to open up Amman to the U.S. 6th Fleet should be King Husayn, and that the first to invite that fleet back should be Saddam Husayn. And just as the Marines left Jordan, they will leave Arab land after the departure of the one who turned our territory into a grazing land for his boys, occupied our homes, destroyed our institutions, and made our women and children homeless. Saddam Husayn will be expelled from Kuwait and Iraq before that. And then we will ask His Highness: Is it true that Jordan is part of Syria? And we are certain that history will write the answer.

Paper Rejects 'Conspiratorial' Arab Initiatives

PM3108101790 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 29 Aug 90 p 1

[Editorial by Dr. Muhammad al-Rumayhi: "Initiative-Makers or Conspirators?"; formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Text] Arab initiatives have increased: One person flying from here to there and another trying to twist and move priorities in other directions.

All these initiatives and settlement efforts emit the conspiratorial and rotten smell of the Saddam Husayn al-Takriti regime. They sound clean from outside, but are malicious inside.

The issue is as clear as sunlight: An evil aggression committed by an oppressive dictator against a peaceful Arab and Muslim country—a country which is recognized by the entire world, a country whose leader is Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah, chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization, a country which has a people and institutions. Its people and institutions say daily: No to occupation, no to submission. We will fight that occupation in unity.

Some think that their initiatives and open views, which are different from their secret views, will be in the occupier's favor. But we say that it is untrue.

We say that there are the resolutions adopted by the Security Council, the highest legal authority in the world, acceptable to all as an arbiter.

It expressed its view clearly: total, unconditional withdrawal and the restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait. There are also the Arab League resolutions. It also expressed its view clearly: total withdrawal and the restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait. The free peoples of the world have said the same, so have the free Arab people.

So the issue is clear and unquestionable. And all initiatives are repudiated and unacceptable, that is with the exception of one initiative—namely that Saddam al-Takriti remove his soldiers and depart from our pure country. If he does not, he and his followers will suffer evil consequences.

The policies implemented both foolishly and arrogantly by Saddam Husayn al-Takriti no longer have a place in this world.

He knows before others that his policies always have been and will be condemned by the world and by its wise men. We urge our brothers to stop playing with fire and talking about lame and absurd solutions that do not deserve even thinking about.

We tell them this with confidence—the confidence of someone who believes in God.

Kuwait will be restored to freedom. Kuwait will be restored with its leadership and people more steadfast, stronger, and brighter. Kuwait will be restored because the people of Kuwait are determined and because all the good peoples in this world support them. The restoration is not far off. So proponents of initiatives, swallow your tongues—the tongues of evil. Your initiatives can only be described this way: words of truth intended to deceive.

Saudi Arabia

Commentary Regrets U.S. Influence in UN, World

JN2808154790 Baghdad in English to Saudi Arabia 1015 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Station commentary; directed at U.S. military personnel]

[Text] The United Nations Security Council on Saturday [25 August] adopted a resolution approving the use of military force to enforce a United States-led western blockade on Iraq. The resolution gives the United States and its allies, who have sent thousands of troops to the Arab Gulf region, a free-hand to use military force in an area where the slightest gunshot can spark a full-scale and devastating war involving the troops of more than twenty countries.

This resolution by the international body is considered by many observers as a historical mistake that will reflect negatively on its future functions. It has minimized the credibility of the United Nations as an impartial organization that should hear out all the interests and listen to the viewpoints of all its member states. The United Nations should have resisted the United States' blackmail and pressure to give its aggression a legitimate and international cover. The Iraqis have been expecting such a resolution because it knows the present influence and hegemony of the United States and its allies on the United Nations. Change the no of the United Nations into a yes and you get the party which has actually adopted the one-sided resolution, said a prominant Arab politician.

Today's world is dominated by the United States' camp, thanks to the retreat of the Soviet Union from the international politics lacking the long-standing support of the now demolished socialist bloc. Many federal countries are beginning to feel they are no match to the developed and heavily armed western bloc led by the United States. Many members of the Nonaligned Movement find themselves in no better shape. Thus, the United States finds little or no opposition to its policy of aggression.

To be truly independent means to be frank and courageous—a motto which the Iraqis are adopting in their foreign policy. It cost Iraq and others self-sacrifices and endurance to be able to speak in a straightforward manner. It is evident that Iraq has [word indistinct] the military and psychological ability to confront the power which was [words indistinct]. The Iraqis are known to be a people of principle strongly committed to their national causes in an exceptional manner. For an Iraqi, his country is as big and powerful as the United States and he will only feel insulted if he is told that the United States or any other country is much more powerful or important than Iraq. It is not only a principle for the individual Iraqi but also a cause for which he has been laboriously working throughout this century now. At long last the Iraqis have begun to feel their power and might, and thus stood up to say no to the superpower greed of the United States.

Terrorizing Iraq will not work and the United States will only be caught up in the whirlwind of the miscalculation if it thought Iraq can be intimidated through Washington's show of muscle and blackmail. The United States and its allies can only win if they resort to peace in dealings with Iraq as no power on earth can fight an army of 2 million given to such a childish game.

Forces Commander Cited on Military Preparations

PM3008150490 Paris LE MONDE in French 30 Aug 90 p 5

[Dispatch from Francoise Chipaux: "Saudis' Dilemma: How To Overthrow Saddam Husayn Without Sparking War"]

[Text] Riyadh—"Our aim is to preserve peace, but if a conflict breaks out we are determined and Iraq will be devastated, because this war will not be like the one Husayn waged against Iran." In a luxurious room at the Defense and Aviation Ministry, General Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan, who has just been appointed commander of the Joint Arab-Islamic forces, did not mince his words.

Listing the miscalculations of the Iraqi president who, according to him, "among other things, never believed that King Fahd would respond so quickly and take the bold and historic decision to appeal for aid from friendly countries, including the United States, which responded very promptly," General Khalid Bin-Sultan said: "Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait and the royal family must return there, or it will be destroyed. We must be sure," he continued, "that Saudi Arabia's security is guaranteed, both now and in the future."

Does this require the permanent presence of foreign troops? Though denying it, the general spoke less clearly on this point on which, while not explicitly saying so, he definitely shares the general feeling here, namely, that the best guarantee for Saudi Arabia is nothing less than Saddam Husayn's relinquishment of power.

The joint Arab-Islamic forces currently are officially comprised (apart, of course, from the Saudi Army and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] units from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman) of troops from Morocco, Egypt, Syria, and Bangladesh and some 2,000 Afghan mujahidin who will find—in the Saudi desert and amidst a wealth of armaments, one more sophisticated than the other—conditions very different from those of their guerrillas. The American forces based in Saudi Arabia remain under separate command, but, General Khalid stressed, "cooperation and coordination with the United States are very close."

On 28 August, American troops, who are still flooding into the Kingdom, where the airlift has not slowed down, received their first heavy equipment sent by ship. The Navy transport ships unloaded at al-Dammam the first Abrams M1 tanks, these being the latest offspring of American technology which have never before left the United States.

The following are allocated to the 24th mechanized infantry division: 16,500 men who have arrived by plane in the past three days; 5,000 vehicles including, apart from the Abrams M1 tanks, Bradley fast tanks, 155mm self-propelled cannon, armored tank transport vehicles, and rocket launchers. According to experts, the arrival of this unit brings the American forces from defensive to offensive readiness.

"We have not yet entered the danger zone," one military expert said in this regard. He believes that it will take at least another month or a month and a half before all of the expected American forces are operational. "Saving an incident, which cannot be ruled out and which would require a rapid response," he said, "the United States is not yet completely ready. All the stocks of ammunition, provisions—80-90 percent of which have hitherto been supplied by Saudi Arabia (though the American Army wants to supply its own water, for instance)—and fuels (some of which are also supplied by Saudi Arabia, though the latter does not have all the types used by the aircraft) have still to be delivered. This cannot be achieved in 10 days."

United Arab Emirates

French Official Delivers Message to President

NC3008133090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1240 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received a message from French President Francois Mitterrand on bilateral relations and developments in the region.

The message was conveyed by Gerard Renault, French minister of state for defense affairs [name and title as received], during a meeting with Shaykh Zayid today.

Received by Defense Minister

NC3008133590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Dubai, 30 Aug (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Rashid al-Maktum, United Arab Emirates minister of defense, met here this afternoon with Gerard Renault, French minister of state for defense affairs [name and title as received], who is currently visiting the Emirates.

During the meeting, the two ministers discussed ways to bolster military cooperation between the UAE and France, particularly in the field of training, armament, and exchange of expertise. They also reviewed the current situation in the region and proposed approaches to find a suitable solution to the current crisis which would safeguard peace and stability in the region and protect world peace.

Comments on Crisis, Departs

NC3108070490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Aug (WAKH)—Gerard Renault, French minister of state for defense affairs [name and title as received], left here tonight following a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

In a news conference he held before he left, he spoke of his country's stand on current events in the Gulf region. He said that the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait is unacceptable and that the hostage issue and the war of the embassies are rejected. He stressed that French measures toward this situation are manifested by participation in the multinational action; the dispatch, with other countries, of war vessels to prevent a new aggression; action to uphold the naval siege approved by the Security Council; and the underlining of French assistance to the countries that requested such aid, including the UAE.

Responding to a question on the possibility of war and the extent of damage to the region, the French minister acknowledged the possibility, noting that Iraq moved toward war by occupying Kuwait. But he expressed hope that matters would not lead to this. He stressed that France prefers conditional diplomatic efforts and calm dialogue to any military action that might be destructive.

Regarding the sale of French weapons to Iraq, he said that this trade was halted within one year and has reached point zero in the past three months. He also stressed that France is ready to supply all the countries in the region with the required weapons, and that it is holding together with [word indistinct] joint exercises on helicopters and Milan missiles which were sent with the French task force that is training similar units in the UAE and undertaking reconnaissance missions.

The French minister added that Saudi Arabia has asked for a number of helicopters from France and that these have been provided, but it has not asked for the dispatch of French forces to its territories.

He also stressed that cooperation between the UAE and France is firm and constantly developing, and that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait saw a quick French response to provide the assistance needed by the UAE, as well as increased bilateral cooperation in the defense fields.

President Receives 'Arafat Political Adviser

NC3008135590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1243 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, received this afternoon Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Developments in the region were discussed during the meeting.

Yemen

Iraqi Planes in Country, Food Airlift Denied

NC3008160590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Aug (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali has denied that there are Iraqi military aircraft at Yemeni airports, saying there is no reason for such planes to be stationed in Yemen. He also denied that his country is airlifting foodstuffs to Iraq to help it break the economic embargo imposed on it.

In a statement following his meeting in Abu Dhabi today with Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, under secretary at the United Arab Emirates Foreign Ministry, Dr. al-Dali said that these reports seek to distort Yemen's position and involve it as a party in the Gulf crisis. He noted that his talks with Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Zayid dealt with this issue. He said Yemen wishes to have its efforts properly understood, noting that these efforts "aim to assist our brothers in emerging from this impasse which will cause harm to all parties." The Yemeni minister emphasized that his country is "playing the role of a brother who wants all parties to be free of this crisis."

On Yemen's absence from the emergency Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo, Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali said: "We would have liked the meeting to have been postponed to enable us to hold further consultations to improve the atmosphere among the Arab brothers."

He said he hopes that the Cairo meeting will adopt resolutions "that will help us hold further meetings" and come together without tension in order to seek a way out of this crisis in a fraternal way.

Baghdad Radio Carries CBS Interview With Saddam

JN3008192190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by Dan Rather of the CBS Television Network, in Baghdad on 29 August; questions are in English—recorded]

[Text] [Rather] Mr. President, I appreciate your doing this. Thank you very much.

[Husayn] You are welcome.

[Rather] And I am going to try to keep my questions very short so we can cover as many questions as possible.

Mr. President, your deputy prime minister and foreign minister said a few days ago that the door was not closed to any idea. Does that include the idea of possibly Iraq withdrawing from Kuwait under any circumstances?

[Husayn] At any rate, the foreign minister spoke within the framework of the general situation. Kuwait is part of a general situation. You know that the U.S. troops are currently occupying the lands considered to be holy to Arabs and Muslims. Moreover, a blockade is being imposed on Iraq. There is a military buildup. There is a massive buildup of troops by the United States and its allies. One of the issues relating to this is the issue of Iraq and possible aggression against Iraq. Then comes Kuwait as one of these numerous factors.

[Rather] But is it negotiable? Is it negotiable or non-negotiable?

[Husayn] If you are talking about withdrawal, then there would be nothing left to negotiate about. When a man, including government officials in any world state, faces any problem, he cannot say that there is no solution or that there is no room for proposing any new idea. When you say that, there is no room for any new ideas; then life, as we said a short while ago, would cease to function. Only a rigid mentality would say there is no room for new ideas.

[Rather] So, it is negotiable?

[Husayn] Negotiable with whom?

[Rather] With the United States?

[Husayn] Is Kuwait the 52d state of the United States?

[Rather] No, you have said it is the 19th province of Iraq.

[Husayn] So, we are talking about dialogue, not negotiations. Negotiations are held with the concerned parties. The United States has thus far been saying that it has been asked to send troops by Saudi Arabia, by the Saudi Government, and that it came in response to this request. The United States did not tell us that it was the legitimate heir of the previous government of Kuwait so we would hold negotiations with it. Consequently, we would negotiate the withdrawal of the United States from the holy places if the Muslims and Arabs asked us to negotiate on their behalf. But since the Arabs and Muslims have not asked us to perform this duty, we should say that we are ready to enter into a dialogue, rather than negotiations, with the United States.

[Rather] But that would include the possibility of your withdrawing from Iraq, [correcting himself] from Kuwait?

[Husayn] Kuwait is part of Iraq.

[Rather] Forever?

[Husayn] We have made our words clear on this. The Iraqi legislative authorities issued a clear decision saying that Kuwait is an Iraqi governorate.

[Husayn] Do you think that U.S. citizens or the U.S. officials have a sufficient background about Kuwait being part of Iraq? Or have they viewed the issue only from the perspective that Kuwait was a state, that the Iraqi Army is now in Kuwait, and that the Kuwaiti Government is now out of Kuwait? And that therefore, in accordance with human and international criteria, the only duty for everyone is to denounce this action? For instance, do Americans know that the Kuwaiti Legislative Council decided in 1938 to join Iraq on the basis that Kuwait was part of Iraq? Do they know, moreover, that this Council was dissolved because it decided twice to join Iraq? This was done on instructions from the British authorities carried out by the Kuwaiti shaykhs. Do Americans know, for instance, that the Iraqi Government has not recognized the presence of any [other] legislative body that can make such a decision within or outside the state of Kuwait? So, Kuwait is different from Saudi Arabia. We could understand when someone says that he is worried about Saudi Arabia if there were a real danger threatening Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is an independent state that has never been a part of Iraq. Neither has Iraq been at any time a part of it. As for Kuwait, the matter is different.

[Rather] May I change this subject for just a moment, Mr. President? There was a report today in the United States that—from several back channels, from several sources—that you have offered to negotiate an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait provided that you will get some of the islands that belong to Kuwait and you will get one of Kuwait's major oil fields, and that the debt to Kuwait for the war would be forgiven. Is that report true?

[Husayn] So far we have not met with the UN secretary general. We have not said this to anyone. Nevertheless, when any idea is presented to us, we will give our opinion on it. But who would suggest the idea to us?

[Rather] Well, Mr. Perez de Cuellar has been submitting ideas [words indistinct].

[Husayn] So far we have not met with Mr. Perez de Cuellar. If he suggests any idea to the foreign minister when they meet, the foreign minister will discuss the idea

with him. We respect Mr. Perez de Cuellar in his capacity as a UN representative.

[Rather] Do you expect a United States military strike against you?

[Husayn] We have taken this into consideration and are preparing ourselves for such a possibility. Yet, despite the fact that we are preparing to face such a possibility, we are not working toward this end.

[Rather] I think many Americans are concerned that there may be a war. The question they want to know is who is that man, Saddam Husayn. How would you describe yourself?

[Husayn, first addressing interpreter] Before thinking that they are greatly interested to know who Saddam Husayn is, does he not think they would first like to know the way to prevent a war? I believe the Americans' concern is correct and legitimate. The Iraqis, like the Americans, do not want war. Therefore, in the name of the Iraqis, I say that I do not want war. What Mr. Bush needs to do is tell the Americans that he does not want war. Then, war will not take place.

As for who Saddam Husayn is, Saddam Husayn is the man sitting in front of you. You and all politicians and media men in the United States know who Saddam Husayn is because Saddam Husayn is not locked up in a vault. A human being is known from his history, so you can tell the public exactly who Saddam Husayn is.

[Rather] President Bush has said that you are to be equated with Hitler, that you are a bully and a very dangerous man.

[Husayn] From which angle did Mr. Bush choose to compare me to Hitler?

[Rather] You invaded a weak neighbor who is no threat to you.

[Husayn] Do you realize how wicked those in authority in that country, which you call weak, were? As a U.S. citizen who should honor his U.S. citizenship by telling the truth, you must know how wicked the al-Sabah family were. Only in 1963, the border station between what was formerly called the state of Kuwait and Iraq was in an area called al-Mitla'. That was in 1963. From 1963 until 2 August 1990, this point continued to move until it reached an area called al-'Abdali. Do you know how far al-'Abdali is from al-Mitla'? Over 70 km. All this took place because we in Iraq did not have stable governments from 1963 to 1968. From 1968 to 1970 the new government was not stable enough. I am talking about something based on documents that we can provide you with. Before the war with Iran in 1980, the value of the Iraqi dinar was higher than that of the Kuwaiti dinar. Do you know what the value of the Iraqi dinar was on 2 August? The value was only 54 Kuwaiti fils, which means 1/19th of the former value of the Iraqi dinar. The party responsible for this state of affairs was Kuwait. Is this a weak government? It is a wicked government. It was the claw of a wolf. The rulers of this part wanted Iraq, which is larger than their part, to be brought down to earth.

[Rather] [Words indistinct] If I may. I know that you did not like Kuwait [words indistinct]. [Words indistinct] know the circumstances?

[Husayn] I hope that you will see the documents in which we warned against this (?behavior) and I also hope that you will see the statements that I made at the Baghdad summit held prior to the events.

[Rather] Americans simply [words indistinct] a man who takes hostages. How can you defend that?

[Husayn] Taking hostages means to hold a person and demand something in return. What have we asked from the United States in return? We have asked for nothing.

[Rather] (?But you asked) not to be attacked?

[Husayn] We said we want peace. And we said that perhaps the U.S. Administration would be influenced by U.S. public opinion if they knew that it would attack Iraq despite the fact that there were U.S. citizens in Iraq.

Therefore, we kept a number of foreigners in Iraq and did not allow them to travel outside Iraq—and for a while, not for good. And when I visited and met with the foreign families yesterday, I felt that they wanted their children and women to be allowed to leave. I consulted with the speaker of the National Assembly, exercised my powers, and allowed them to travel.

Therefore, we have not taken anyone hostage in exchange for anything. We do not want anything. We do not want war to break out, because if it does, it will harm the United States, Iraq, and humanity in general.

[Rather] Mr. President, (?respectfully), a hostage is a hostage is a hostage. I have to believe that you, an intelligent person, know that these people are hostages.

[Husayn] If this is understood as such, why did the Americans detain tens of thousands of Japanese during World War II? Some of them, most of them, were U.S. nationals. Therefore, the Americans committed two acts of detention. First they detained a human being, and second, they detained a U.S. national with citizenship rights.

[Rather] I do not want to defend that, but it was a long time ago, a different situation. Would you consider letting all of the hostages go?

[Husayn] Why different? Was not the justification for detaining those Japanese and Americans that you did not want the war to drag on?

[Rather] No, it was done for internal security.

[Husayn] We are doing it for the sake of peace, which is a more sublime objective than internal security.

[Rather] [Words indistinct] Let me ask: One of your Iraqi officials said to me in private: What we have now is kind of balance of terror. Do you agree that what we have now is a kind of balance of terror between the United States and Iraq; you have the hostages and we have a huge military force?

[Husayn] No, we do not believe this. The man who told you that does not know our policy; that is, if someone really told you this. You must have heard my remarks to our foreign guests. I recommended that if a raid were launched against the place where they are and there is a shelter, those in charge should allow the foreigners to enter the shelter first and then the Iraqis. If we wanted to strike a balance of so-called terror, we would not have given preference to foreigners over Iraqis in entering the shelters. But we are still considering them our guests. In Arab tradition, the guest is dealt with on this basis. He comes before the people in the house.

Let me ask you as an American—I will also ask you questions if you will allow me—don't you in America wonder how this situation different from that in Grenada and Panama? We say that Kuwait is a part of Iraq and we have the documents to prove it. As for Panama and Grenada, they have never been parts of the United States of America. Yet, you invaded Panama and Grenada. You brought the leader of Panama to the United States to try him there. Don't the American people ask their government about this double standard treatment? On the one hand, armies are dispatched to Iraq because it extended into its other part; namely, Kuwait; and on the other hand, the U.S. action in Grenada and Panama is considered to be a correct action, a legitimate and constitutional action.

[Rather] First of all, my job is to ask questions not to answer questions. These questions are better directed to President Bush.

[Husayn] Then I put it to President Bush, and were he to answer that we went to Grenada and Panama but we have kept neither, I would tell him that had they been part of the United States, you would have retained them.

[Rather] Mr. President, let us move to another subject, if I may. Let me speak frankly....

[Husayn, interrupting] So, you haven't been speaking frankly.

[Rather] Perhaps not, perhaps not. But when I saw you on television with the [word indistinct] with what you call guests and I call hostages, with the British boy and his family, I was very uncomfortable with that, and that I think many Americans and others were uncomfortable and outraged by it. Why did you do it?

[Husayn] We have said that foreigners, those you call hostages, are our guests. It is a habit with me to see the field before I decide anything, and when the issue has to do with human beings, then I take great care to see the situation for myself before I decide on anything. It is my duty to see for myself how these foreigners are doing rather than depend on secondhand accounts. Which is why I have been to see them twice. And I asked them about their private and general affairs, and I learned some very valuable human lessons. For example, regardless of assurances given to the foreigners as to the women's safety and comfort, I discovered that the women were not really comfortable. And my conversation with them led me to believe that Arab mentality and morality might be misunderstood—old values and our glorious past that we want to maintain. I, therefore, talked to a number of my comrades and the speaker of the National Assembly, and we decided to let children and women leave the country, stay, or return whenever they want. The aim of the meeting was prompted by humanitarian grounds.

[Rather] Would you consider letting all of the hostages leave, Mr. President?

[Husayn] We wish this thing had not happened in the first place. It is only natural for us to feel the heavy burden of the situation on us just as the guests we were compelled to host feel the heavy burden of the situation.

[Rather] I want to make sure that I understand: So the answer is no, you will not consider letting the other hostages go?

[Husayn] If we had considered it, a decision would have been made.

[Rather] Mr. President, you have proposed a debate with President Bush and with Prime Minister Thatcher—are you serious about it?

[Husayn] I am very serious.

[Rather] But why, what will that accomplish?

[Husayn] Do not the Western nations like dialogues through which they can learn the facts? We are often told the Western nations like dialogues, discussions, and innovation. However, we see some of them avoiding dialogue and innovation. They also refuse to view matters flexibly. For instance, based on declared Western values, we thought that as we used to be abused by others because of the practices of Jabir al-Ahmad [Al Sabah], his removal would be greeted with relief in some quarters regardless of disagreements on other viewpoints. However, we found that the biggest power in the world—the United States—came to invade the region under the slogan of returning this backward person—a person who knows nothing but possessing women and money and who can hardly manage to construct a full sentence. This power came to invade the land of the Kaaba and the tomb of the prophet in order to return Jabir al-Ahmad to power. There is a contradiction in this.

[Rather] Excuse me, Mr. President. Respectfully, it is you who invaded another country, not the United States who invaded any country.

[Husayn] Yes, but did you not use to abuse the Arabs because of the behavior of Jabir al-Ahmad and the like, whom you see in Europe and America?

[Rather] My answer to that is no. But let me move on. I want to get back to this idea of the debate. Where would this take place and when?

[Husayn] Any time, starting this moment. I meant a televised debate. But if a dialogue is wanted, I am ready as of this moment for a direct dialogue with Mr. Bush and Mrs. Thatcher, together or separately. If they wish a televised debate, my essential condition is that it be live, with no chance for editing the tape, so that citizens could see exactly what takes place.

[Rather] Would you see this happening, for example, at the United Nations?

[Husayn] Through whatever means or form. What is important is for the dialogue to take place. It does not matter how.

[Rather] Why is this so important to you?

[Husayn] Is dialogue not important for human beings so they can learn the viewpoints of each other and so that the mistaken can correct his mistake and he who is correct can stick to his position?

[Interpreter in Arabic to Rather and Husayn] We are talking about the televised debate?

[Rather] Yes.

[Husayn] Yes.

[Interpreter] Why is it important?

[Husayn] The televised debate is important for me so that public opinion will know the facts as they truly are, not as the rulers say, whether this public opinion is Arab—in which I am interested—or foreign—in which Mr. Bush and Mrs. Thatcher are interested. This is important as well for the common denominator among the three of us, which is the human dimension, so that all world peoples will know the facts as they truly are through their own assessment of the debate between the three concerned parties.

[Rather] The Bush Administration today calls this idea, and I quote, sick.

[Husayn] Why is it sick? You, as a U.S. national have to ask the U.S. Administration why an open and direct dialogue that would make citizens in the countries concerned and the world public in general aware of facts as they are or as they can be deduced through a dialogue should be described as sick.

[Rather] Mr. President, are you willing to take your claim to Kuwait to the World Court and abide by its decision, to the World Court, the International Court of Justice?

[Husayn] Such a measure could have been taken before 2 August. However, if a comprehensive and durable peace is to be attained in the region, we know that all concerned parties must make some sacrifices. On the basis of this feeling, we proposed our initiative on 12 August. We said that if all the region's problems were to be resolved to ensure that regional problems are settled in accordance with the same bases and standards, the international community must heed all resolutions issued on similar issues by the UN Security Council and which have so far been left unimplemented. The reference here is to the Palestine question, the Arab-Zionist conflict, the occupation of Lebanon, and—before we launched our initiative toward Iran—the issue of the Iraq-Iran war. We included in our initiative the Western Sahara issue, as well as the Kuwaiti issue. This initiative was declared before the launching of the initiative that resolved matters with Iran. We proposed that all these issues be resolved in accordance with clear bases and principles. As for the Kuwaiti issue, historical facts and the status quo should provide the background for any solution to it. However, Mr. Bush rejected the initiative within hours, even before asking for the official text of the initiative.

[Rather] Well, I believe he considered it to be unrealistic.

[Husayn] Why not realistic? When the occupation is Zionist, it is considered to be legitimate. When the Zionists occupied Arab lands, it was considered legitimate by Bush. But when the mother restores her child who was snatched away from her, this is considered illegal for Iraq, this is a reason for him to bring in his troops, and to occupy the Kaaba, and the prophet's tomb. This is the double standard in Mr. Bush's way of thinking.

[Rather] Mr. President, again, you are an intelligent person, and you recognize the difference. Israel that has been surrounded by neighbors who want to destroy her and a weak neighbor of yours who didn't want to destroy you.

[Husayn] First, regarding the talk that Israel's neighbors seek its destruction, I do not believe that any Arab is calling for destroying the Israel of the Jewish identity. But, it is only natural for the Arabs to say that the occupier must leave our lands and that if he does not leave our lands through politics, he must realize that the Arabs will be forced one day to make him leave their lands in other ways.

With regard to the rulers of Kuwait, yes, they wanted to destroy Iraq. The rulers of Kuwait wanted to destroy Iraq. We clearly said this to them in front of all the Arab kings and presidents who were meeting in Baghdad. We have a document which we can give to you showing that we said this to them. What is taking place against Iraq is war. If you do not mean to wage war, you should review your policy that aims to destroy the Iraqi economy. But what happened later is that things became worse and worse.

You say the program is one hour long. If it last more than one hour, then you will have to edit it. Can you go on for more than an hour?

[Rather] Yes, it is possible we can go on for more than one hour. Certainly, we will take the translation out and we can compress the time. But we have time. Our agreement with you (?was) we will not edit this interview. I want to ask you Mr. President: This last weekend I interviewed your friend Husni Mubarak, president of Egypt.

[Husayn] He was my friend.

[Rather] He says he is still a friend.

[Husayn] To me, he no longer is.

[Rather] Here's what he told me. This is a paraphrase, but it is accurate. He said: Either way, Saddam Husayn is through, finished. If he stays in Kuwait, he will be destroyed by military power. If he withdraws from Kuwait he will lose credibility, he will lose face, and so he will be finished.

[Husayn] If this is what he said, he should be one of the decisionmakers in the Pentagon, not the president of the Arab state of Egypt. If he is really the president of the Arab state of Egypt he would not have said this, even if he wished it. If he is one of the decisionmakers of the Pentagon, he will commit the same mistake the relevant people in the Pentagon will commit if they believe they can destroy Iraq. History will show us. That is, within a few months, weeks, and years the one who knows the right course of history and who knows the real feelings of the Arabs will emerge.

I am saying this, of course, supposing that what you told me about Mr. Mubarak is correct.

[Rather] That's exactly, Mr. President. Your deputy prime minister and foreign minister told me in an interview that Iraq would not use poison gas or biological weapons unless attacked with nuclear weapons itself. Are you prepared to give this commitment?

[Husayn] We have made enough statements on this issue. If what is meant is the situation with Israel, we spoke about this a great deal.

[Rather] No, we properly speak about the situation with the United States.

[Husayn] In all cases, we will not give Iraq to anybody. Iraq exists to live in dignity.

[Rather] So, you might use poison gas in defense of Iraq, to save Iraq?

[Husayn] I have not said that. I say: Iraq is an independent and sovereign state. And whoever attacks Iraq to change the ruling system and destroy this country should know that Iraq will not be an easy target.

[Rather] Do you think, Mr. President, that this will be Vietnam in the sand for the United States?

[Husayn] We do not hope that the United States will face the tragedies it faced in Vietnam and neither do we hope that the Iraqis and the Arabs will face the same tragedies the Vietnamese faced in the war between the United States and the Vietnamese. But, if the war breaks out between the United States and Iraq, representing the Arabs, I think that the United States will no longer be superpower number one. And the harm that will be inflicted on the invaders will be even more severe than what they experienced in Vietnam, and Iraq will come out on top.

[Rather] [Words indistinct] that you underestimate the power of the United States, what are the chances that a quick, powerful strike could knock you out immediately?

[Husayn] There is no powerful and quick strike that a people could deliver, whatever their overall power. The United States depends on the Air Force. The Air Force has never decided a war in the history of wars. In the early days of the war between us and Iran, the Iranians had an edge in the air. They had approximately 600 aircraft, all U.S.-made and whose pilots received training in the United States. They flew to Baghdad like black clouds, but they did not determine the outcome of the battle. In later years, our air force gained supremacy, and yet it was not our air force that settled the war. The United States may be able to destroy cities, factories and to kill, but it will not be able to decide the war with the Air Force. This is in terms of technology, our fighters, and war in a sound framework. But otherwise, God is with us, and Satan is with the U.S. Administration. Can Satan defeat God?

[Rather] Every soldier I ever met believes God is on his side.

[Husayn] Yet there remains a difference between one coming all the way from the United States to occupy Hejaz and Najd [Saudi Arabia] and one sitting in his home among his kinfolk without committing aggression against the United States.

[Rather] If you are attacked by the United States from Saudi territory or any place else, will your promise not to attack Saudi Arabia still hold?

[Husayn] In the event we are attacked from Saudi territory, the situation will be different. And if we are attacked from other territories, the situation will also be different.

[Rather] Sir, we are nearing the end of our time. I appreciate your generosity. But what is happening now is going to drastically change the balance of forces in the Middle East [words indistinct]. Do you agree with that?

[Husayn] Yes, I agree, if the situation should develop into war. But if the crisis finds a political solution, things will take a different course.

[Rather] Is there anything that you want to say to President Bush, [words indistinct] to speak to him directly?

[Husayn] I have nothing to say, except that before he involves the United States in a difficult situation, he should think a great deal and consult with people who might be able give him accurate and correct information on the region and the background of the issue of Kuwait in regard to Iraq.

[Rather] Do you have any new proposals to make?

[Husayn] If a dialogue begins, we are sure to have a good many things to say, just as they would have many things to tell us. But if war breaks out, we will not bear the sin of starting it.

[Rather] Mr. President, I thank you for your time.

[Husayn] My pleasure.

Developments Regarding Release of Foreigners

None To Leave Before 30 Aug

NC2908120790 Paris AFP in English 1158 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 29 (AFP)—Iraqi authorities Wednesday [29 August] began providing authorization to leave Iraq to foreign women and children but said their departure could not take place before Thursday [30 August], an official source disclosed.

He said President Saddam Husayn's announcement Tuesday that foreign women and children could leave Iraq applied to nationals "from the United States, the countries of Western Europe and Japan."

Information Minister Comments

LD3008202390 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The Iraqi information minister [name not given] has asserted the following to the Algerian television correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Minister] We made the decision to release women and children when we were reassured that the United States will not strike and has no intention to strike Iraq and destroy factories and the Iraqi people's livelihood. The U.S. military capabilities are known; our military capabilities are also known. The point of all our endeavors is to avoid war. When we are reassured that the situation has changed and that the United States has chosen another alternative to war and will leave the region, then everyone will return to his people.

[Correspondent] What if the United States takes the initiative and strikes Iraq?

[Minister] If they strike us we will strike them with all our force. The whole oil region will be burned. [end recording]

Western Sources Expect Delay

NC3008124590 Paris AFP in English 1237 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 30 (AFP)—Foreign women and children held here will not be able to leave Iraq for "several days" because they are widely dispersed and do not have all the necessary documents, Western sources said Thursday.

"In my view, it will be several days before the presidential decision will be put into practice," said one source. "It's complicated and will require patience. The formalities are complex and change frequently."

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on Tuesday announced that foreign women and children, trapped in Kuwait and Iraq since the Iraqi invasion of its southern neighbour August 2, were free to leave.

Departure To Take 'Several Days'

NC3008134090 Paris AFP in English 1330 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 30 (AFP)—Foreign women and children held here will not be able to leave Iraq for "several days" because they are widely dispersed and do not have all the necessary documents, Western sources said Thursday. "In my view, it will be several days before the presidential decision will be put into practice," said one source. "It's complicated and will require patience. The formalities are complex and change frequently."

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn announced Tuesday [28 August] that foreign women and children, trapped in Kuwait and Iraq since the Iraqi invasion of its southern neighbour August 2, were free to leave. Iraq has said it is holding foreigners, Westerners in most cases, to deter an attack that Baghdad fears could be launched by the United States and its allies because of the invasion.

The Western sources, who did not want to be identified, said Mr. Husayn's offer to release women and children appeared to be without conditions. One of them described life in the Iraqi capital as "perfectly normal."

"We can't talk of shortages," he added. "There had already been problems (before the current crisis) and they have simply been exacerbated." Iraqi authorities had said earlier that the processing of departure formalities was expected to begin Thursday.

273 Women, Children To Leave

JN3008141990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1407 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Pursuant to leader President Saddam Husayn's order to grant foreign children and women the freedom either to travel or stay in Iraq in accordance with their desire, the chief of the Presidential Office has announced that the number of foreign women and children who expressed the desire to travel, and who are allowed to

depart in accordance with the leader president's order has reached 273. The number of those who do not wish to depart and have chosen to stay in Baghdad has reached 28.

More U.K. Detainees Transported to Baghdad

LD3008140690 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1218 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Report by James Hardy and Paul Bromley, PRESS ASSOCIATION political staff]

[Text] The British Embassy in Baghdad has begun collecting the passports of women and children in readiness for their possible evacuation from Iraq, the foreign office said today.

But as officials continued to press for more information about President Saddam Husayn's offer to release women and children, a foreign office official in London disclosed that a further 32 British nationals had been seized by the Iraqi authorities in Kuwait, bringing the total number seized to 197. They and another seven people already held hostage were taken by bus from Kuwait to Baghdad earlier today.

The foreign office said that while a certain number of passports had been collected in Baghdad, the advice to British nationals still in Kuwait remained that they should keep a low profile.

The spokesman said: "The situation in Kuwait is rather complicated by the fact that it is impossible for people to come to us and hand in their passports."

Role of Detained Foreign Nationals Viewed

JN2908095790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—The INA international affairs editor has commented on the statement of the Iraqi-French friendship group in the French Senate, which referred to what it termed pressures exerted on foreign nationals, particularly French nationals, who are hosted in Iraq. The editor said:

As has been repeatedly stated, Iraq did not host foreign nationals for any inhuman reason or for any of the demands the French Government submitted to in the past, which are known to the friendly French people, whom the Iraqi people respect and have amity for. In fact, Iraq hosted these nationals to prevent aggression and to deter the war with which its Western allies are threatening it, foremost of which is President Bush's government, who has frankly and repeatedly said that their forces came to the region to impose a blockade against Iraq in order to implement the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The INA international affairs editor wonders: Otherwise, why this intensified campaign and this unjustified presence if they do not have evil intentions? He said: Iraq's people, like all world peoples, including the French friends, respect their commitments with all world states. However, they will not allow any side to encroach on their rights. The French nationals are the guests of all the Iraqis, who have our amity and appreciation. The Iraqi people will continue to be a peace-loving people, regardless of this or that side's claims. Time will reveal that the Iraqis are faithful to all their friends. The French, and other nationals will be messengers of love and peace.

Minister Says Country Will Stand Up to Embargo

TA3008174890 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1600 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Report by Oguz Haksever from Baghdad]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a statement to Turkish radio and television, Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Jasim said that Iraq will stand up to the embargo. In our first day in Baghdad, we spoke to the Iraqi information minister and asked him various questions.

The minister noted that Iraq had adopted measures in connection with the embargo and that it is consuming what it produces. On the subject of Turkey's position on the Gulf crisis, Jasim said that medicines and food are not included in the embargo, and he added that Turkey must act with this fact in mind. Jasim stressed many times that Turkey and his country are neighbors and that there are deep-rooted relations between the two countries. The Iraqi minister also remarked that the oil pipeline constitutes a source of income for both countries.

There is no information yet on the release of Western women and children. Official authorities note that all Western women and children in Iraq are gathered in one area. [passage omitted]

Food, Supplies Reportedly Being Flown From Yemen

TA3008123390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Western navies deployed in the Persian Gulf and Red Sea are rigorously enforcing the blockade on Iraqi ships, but it is possible that a crack has been left open in the sky. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that this is indeed suspected, and that planes are much harder to stop than ships.

[Begin Remez recording] Officials in the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO] told us this morning that several days ago, the Iraqi authorities reopened an aviation route over Iraqi territory. Most of the commercial airlines did not resume their flights to Baghdad, and the ICAO is diverting flights to alternative routes. However, ICAO has received reports from several sources that Iraq has been breaking the blockade through civil flights from Yemen, which are believed to be carrying food and supplies.

We are still uncertain whether the flights pass through Jordan, or reach Iraq over the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf, said the ICAO official, who wished to remain anonymous. [passage omitted]

As for the Jordanian route, we learned from a conversation with the London-based office of the Iraqi airline that the company had canceled its flights to Baghdad from all exit points except Amman. An airline employee was surprised when we inquired about the possibility of flying to Baghdad, but said we could both fly there and send cargo through the Jordanian airline, which flies to Amman. [passage omitted]

She added that only personal belongings, not food, can be sent to Iraq. As for flying to Iraq via Amman—there are numerous Iraqi airline flights from Amman to Baghdad. It appears that that company has massed its aircraft on the short route to Jordan and back, where cargo control is not expected to be as scrupulous as that in London. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Paper Calls Economic Blockade 'Serious Precedent'

JN3008121390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has described measures to cut off the supplies of food, medicine, and powdered milk from millions of Iraqis as unfair and intended to achieve certain known purposes. The world community has never adopted such measures against any party, in any case, and under any excuse, said the paper.

In an article today, the paper says that the measures adopted by the imperialist countries allied with the United States to bar trade and its movement to and from Iraq constitute a serious precedent in the contemporary human age. It takes human life back to the Middle Ages, known for barbarism and the predominance of the law of the jungle, especially piracy and highway robbery, with all their causes, pretexts, and results.

The paper adds: The countries that are implementing a comprehensive economic blockade against Iraq, preventing even the arrival of food, medicine, and children's milk, underscore the fact that they are being drawn into the exposed, hostile U.S. desires. The measures disclose a hidden acrimony against Iraq and extreme hatred of its entire people—women, children, and men. [passage omitted]

The paper goes on to say: The U.S. and British Administratons are mistaken if they imagine that the imposition of the blockade on Iraq in this savage manner will manage to bring it to its knees, or force it to concede its legitimate rights. Iraq stated its clear word in this respect through President Saddam Husayn, who said that those making such decisions do not seem to be fully aware of the Arab will or the Iraqi mentality. The Iraqis are prepared to eat dirt before bowing their heads to the aggressive invaders.

The paper stresses that those aggressive administratons have troubled themselves with the wrong calculations. All their plans of aggression against Iraq and the Arabs, especially the invasion of the sacred lands by such a huge number of ground, air, and naval forces, and the accompanying decisions to besiege Iraq were all stillborn; their only place is in the trash can.

Air Commander Threatens Israelis If War Occurs

JN3008133190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—Commenting on the statement made by Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the Saudi forces, at a news conference on 28 August 1990 and reported by the BCC on the same day, the commander of the Air Force has made the following statement:

If war breaks out, the dens of treason of the betrayal of the two holy mosques in the kingdom of evil and those in these dens will not be safe from destruction. We do not say that our air and missile forces will reach the White House, but they will play their honorable role in destroying the forces of invasion and vice. And if war breaks out, our forces will be able to deal devastating blows to the dens of the Israelis, who have played and are still playing a malicious role in pushing things toward war. God is great.

'Aziz Does Not Rule Out Terrorist Tactics

AU3108065390 Paris AFP in English 0228 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Paris, Aug 31 (AFP)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has implicitly threatened Western countries with terrorist tactics, saying in an interview that Iraq would consider itself "free of any moral engagement" when menaced.

"Acts of terrorism should be proscribed" if all countries behaved in a "civilized fashion", Mr. 'Aziz told the French daily LE FIGARO in an interview to be published Friday. But if "the French, U.S. and British governments use imperialist methods, threatening Iraq with their ships and planes", then Baghdad is "free of any moral engagement in their respect".

If "the Arab people is menaced with genocide", why should Iraq "worry about American interests in the region, or the stability of France"?, the minister continued.

The United States has stationed more than 50,000 troops in the Gulf since Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, while Britain and France are leading Western contributors to the military defensive buildup in the region.

On Iraqi President Saddam Hussayn's granting Tuesday of permission for foreign women and children to leave Iraq, Mr. 'Aziz said officials had visited families detained at strategic sites to tell them of the decision.

"Some women may not want to quit their husbands," he said, adding that they would not be forced to do so. Those who had not received exit visas Thursday should get them on Friday, he said.

Mr. 'Aziz said that foreigners living in Iraq were better treated than those in Kuwait, contending that Baghdad had "obligations towards those working in Iraq, while it does not" to foreign residents in Kuwait.

Due to meet United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Amman, Jordan, on Friday, Mr. 'Aziz said he had confidence in Mr. Perez de Cuellar's "method", noting his role in bringing about a ceasefire in Iraq's 1980s war with Iran.

He concluded with strong criticism of France, claiming that "all the imperialist past comes back to mind".

Saddam Chairs Council of Ministers' Meeting

JN3008191290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1824 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, I have just received the following:

Leader President Saddam Husayn has presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers. The conferees discussed the topics on the agenda and the appropriate measures were taken.

Source Reacts to Bush's 28 Aug News Conference

JN2908145690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1413 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—An authorized source has reacted to the statements Bush made in his news conference on 28 August 1990 following his meeting with the Canadian prime minister. The source said:

At a time when he refutes that he is closing the door to dialogue—by stating, "I am not saying that we will not talk"—in reaction to criticism leveled against him because he closed the door to dialogue through hasty measures and warmongering slogans, Bush contradicts himself in the same statement when he sets preconditions, confines such a dialogue to the U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad, and rejects efforts to find a political and peaceful solution to the crisis.

This statement confirms that Bush is not good at dialogue and also that he does not want a way to avert crises when he is attempting to provide a cover for the arrogance he is upholding and the unilateral approach he is pursuing and forcing others to pursue, making them support and succumb to the United States' dictate. We say that at a time when he is attempting to cover for the unilateral U.S. approach to decide the situation, Bush says in apparent nervousness: "If Perez de Cuellar wants to go ahead in his attempt to find a solution acceptable to the United States, this would be good."

The following statement by Bush confirms what we have said and what is clear and tangible: "The solution offered by anyone, whoever he may be, including the UN representative, must be acceptable not only to the international community or the parties to the conflict, but also to the United States. Otherwise, it would be unacceptable."

Thus, Bush exposes himself when futilely trying to cover his position with flimsy excuses. Once again, he exposes the roles of the agents panting after him. What also becomes clear is also the path of jihad and mujahidin. And there is a big difference between right and wrong.

Commentary Considers Bush Reference to 'Hostages'

LD2808212790 Baghdad International Service in English 2000 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] In a desperate bid to woe the waning support of American and Western public opinion, President Bush had no scruples about calling foreigners hosted in Iraq as hostages. President Bush is obviously trying to touch on a sensitive point, given the fact that the receiver would associate the hostage concept with some very bad memories that are still lingering. However, the U.S. President did not take the idea a bit further, to define what a hostage is. He left Iraq's counter-argument unanswered. This is no surprise, because his sole intention was to drum up support for war.

For all that, the U.S. President has said foreigners in Iraq are (?still) and will never be hostages. [sentence as heard]

Iraq has so far not asked for any kind of ransom to release them; it is not trying to wrest any concession in return for their lives. These foreigners have never been treated as hostages.

An English boy who was allowed to join his parents after President Saddam Husayn visited some British guests, told the British press they were kindly treated by the Iraqis; they were not harassed, pushed around, or deprived of any basic needs.

A hostage is a hostage. Need one remind Bush of what a hostage is? Money, concessions, or ransom are usually demanded. Hostages are kept in secret places. Threats are made to their lives, and they are forced to speak at gunpoint. In some cases foreigners were blindfoldedly paraded to add salt to injury. Has any of this happened to the foreigners in Iraq? Any impartial observer would say no. True, they are now living with families (?looking on the sites) of strategic projects and military facilities, but they are allowed sufficient freedom; they have access to the outside world; they are visited by the president himself to see to it that all their needs are met. They can maintain contacts with their families by mail or through radio and television. Foreigners being hosted in Iraq are meant to be heroes of peace. They are not intended as

tools to blackmail anybody, but to contribute to the cause of peace, which Bush and his allies seem to have little or no regard to.

President Bush, Margaret Thatcher, and Douglas Hurd remarks about them have apparently failed to bring about the desired reaction. The world public opinion is showing more and more understanding to Iraq's attitude toward guest foreigners.

Following the departure of Austrian nationals to their homeland, scores of foreigners including Austrians, (?Swiss), Germans, and others voluntarily offered to come to Iraq to act as heroes of peace. This could well be among the things that took Bush and Thatcher by surprise. The longer the American warmongering lingers, the more surprises are likely to emerge.

Editor Mocks Bush Message to U.S. Troops

JN2908190790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—U.S. President George Bush has alleged that he sent his troops to the Arab region for peaceful purposes. The political editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY mocks these allegations that were contained in a recorded message Bush sent to U.S. troops serving in the holy Arab lands.

The INA commentator says that it is ironic for the U.S. President to claim that the buildup of fleets and the moving of troops of various nationalities thousands of kilometers away from their bases can be for peaceful purposes.

Therefore, the statements by George Bush reflect a state of psychological confusion that he and his administration are suffering after Bush placed himself in a dilemma that has aroused numerous criticisms inside and outside the United States. This has also caused voices to be heard rejecting U.S. involvement in the Arab region. Hence, the U.S. President is incapable of justifying the positions that he has taken for the U.S. soldiers and their families. That is why he has chosen to tell them that the mission of the troops he sent to the holy Arab lands is a peaceful one.

The INA commentator asks: Had President Bush been sincere in his claims about the peaceful purposes of his troops in the region, he would have responded favorably to the initiative launched by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on 12 August 1990. What a miserable words they are saying! And what miserable acts they are committing!

U.S. Urged Not To Heed 'Warmongers'

JN3008154990 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 30, INA—THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER for today published an editorial in which it said a by-product of the Gulf crisis has shown the irony that the self-avowed Western democracies refuse to budge an inch on their determination to shut dialogue. The United States, a staunch believer in democracy, or so it says, has been adamant to refuse to open dialogue with Iraq-which has tried to take on the democratic path, and is still trying, but found the doors shut.

Isn't dialogue one of the pillars of democracy?.

The Western democracies, led by the United States, are proving that they preach something but do something else. This is a fact that the current developments in one of the most volatile regions of the world attest to.

The United States has sent its troops and military hard-ware to an area where the heat of desert is equally burning as its highly inflammable oil wells. The Americans in this region are sitting atop a volcano, whose eruption would prove far more scathing than the scorching heat of the desert's sun. An inadvertent spark could activate the volcano and set the whole region on fire.

This is why the logic of the war-mongers does not serve world peace. It is not in the interest of America itself, nor is it in the interest of its alies. It is not in the interest of anybody. The United States may have been encouraged to start a new adventure by its allies in the region. It may have listened to their claims and rushed into the area to police it without an after- thought. In this, the US, one has to say, was ill-advised.

Iraq is not Panama or Grenada. Iraq has a war-hardened army and a war-tested people. It has huge resources and is highly capable of inflicting huge losses on America. Would the American people tolerate another Vietnam? This is a question for the US Administration to answer.

Iraq has offered dialogue with the US Government, because the tragedies of war can be averted by diplomatic means, and a peaceful solution would spare thousands of lives on all sides. The US should make use of the opportunities open to peace and pay no heed to warmongers, whose logic does not suit the reason of the age. It should not listen to a bunch of shaykhs and make the grave mistake of committing aggression against Iraq and its people. The Gulf shaykhs and petrol amirs have nothing more to lose now that they have been banished by the people. The real loser would be America and its people, as well as peoples of the region and the whole world as a consequence.

Egyptians, Anti-Iraq Measures Condemned

JN3008125890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—The INA Arab affairs editor has stressed that Arabism and the people of Egypt will continue to abide in the conscience of the Iraqis, despite all attempts by the Camp David symbols to detach Egypt from its identity and affiliation and distance it from its own sons.

Commenting on a report today by the newspaper AL-WAFD to the effect that the Bur Tawfiq free zone in the Suez governorate declared a state of emergency to store goods bound for Iraq as part of the measures against Iraq by the Egyptian regime and its allies, the editor said: We have no comment on such measures by the Egyptian regime, which we know full well, but we wonder if it is really Egypt—the history and the Arabism—that adopts such arbitrary measures against the people of Iraq, who haved loved Egypt and its people.

The editor asked: Have the servants [as received] of Egypt taken the mask off the remaining part of their faces? We will not say more, but we stress that we will continue to love Egypt, adore the soil of Egypt, and love the Egyptians no matter how the agents and followers of Camp David behave toward the people of Iraq. Egypt will remain in the heart of every dignified Iraqi. And cursed be the hirelings, who are up to their ears in agentry.

Editor Rebuts White House on Settling Crisis

JN3008145290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—The INA international affairs editor has asserted that the White House claim that the U.S. Administration had turned down an Iraqi proposal to settle the Gulf crisis is mendacious and categorically unfounded.

The White House claimed that it had turned down a plan conveyed by a former U.S. official providing for an Iraqi offer to withdraw from Kuwait and to allow all foreigners to leave in exchange for lifting UN sanctions.

The editor explains that the Iraqi position has been clearly articulated through the messages and initiatives announced by President Saddam Husayn, the most important of which was the initiative declared on 12 August, which calls for an all-inclusive solution to all problems of the region.

The INA editor adds that Iraq does not need a U.S. mediator to convey its opinion to the U.S. Administration, which has openly declared its stand against Iraq and the Arab nation. He also notes that the U.S. Administration's egregious intervention and invasion of Arab lands, abetted by the betrayer of the two holy mosques, constitutes irrefutable evidence of the U.S. Administration's approach and policy.

The INA editor also stresses the fact that Kuwait historically belongs to Iraq, and will remain so in perpetuity. As for the foreign nationals, they are the guests of Iraq. Hence, allowing them to leave is tied to circumstances and the U.S. threats. Once these circumstances are overcome, they will return to their countries, as messengers of peace. They will cherish the most beautiful memories about Iraq and its great leader Saddam Husayn.

Japan Criticized for Contributing to Buildup

JN3008145890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—The INA international affairs editor has described Japan's contribution to the expenses of the foreign forces in the Gulf and the Arab Peninsula as an encroachment upon the dignity of the Japanese people and a denial of the martyrs of the U.S. crimes in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Commenting on Japan's decision to provide 1 billion dollars to cover the expenses of the foreign forces in the Gulf and the Arab Peninsula, the editor said: The Japanese decision to finance the foreign forces threatening Iraq's security with 1 billion dollars of the friendly Japanese people's money continues to surprise and astonish us.

The editor wondered about the interest of the Japanese people in their government's participation in the aggression against Iraq and the financing of the occupation of the Arab Peninsula—the occupation that has angered all Arabs and Muslims in the world because the Islamic sanctities in Mecca and Medina are being desecrated.

The editor asked, surprised: What is Japan's interest in being a party to the most dangerous aggression led by the United States, which is threatening to start a war in a region that was and still is the main source of energy consumed by Japan?

The INA editor stressed: We were expecting the Japanese Government to act more wisely so as not to get itself involved in this, especially in light of Japanese history and the catastrophe that befell Japan in the first criminal nuclear strike carried out by the United States against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which killed thousands of Japanese civilians.

We respect the Japanese people and are bound to them by deep friendship; Japan has interests in the Arab countries.

The editor added: Was it not more appropriate for the Japanese Government to take all this and the future of its relations and legitimate interests into account? And if the Japanese Government was pressed by the United States into making such a decision, is it possible for it to be pushed so far as to act against its own interests and harm the pride and history of the Japanese people?

He concluded: This question is posed to the Japanese Government and to the friendly Japanese people.

UN Rights Commission Condemns Iraqi Violations

AU3108073190 Paris AFP in English 0241 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Geneva, Aug 31 (AFP)—The United Nations Sub-Commission on Human Rights condemned the

Iraqi Government for the first time Thursday for major domestic violations of rights and pressed Baghdad to free detained foreigners.

Meeting here, the sub-commission studied a report on Iraq and Kuwait, which was occupied by Iraqi troops on August 2 and this week declared a province of Iraq. Delegates took note of "reliable reports of mass extrajudicial executions, enforced or involuntary disappearances and arbitrary detention in Iraq," with specific details from non-governmental organizations, a statement said.

The Iraqi delegation to the conference here rejected the reports.

The sub-commission also voiced concern at the "situation of thousands of displaced Kurds living in camps in the north of Iraq, and the attacks on, and the forced displacement of, a part of the Shia population in the south".

It cited reports that Baghdad was uprooting people to set up a 30-kilometre (18-mile) security zone around Iraqi borders.

The commission also considered "reliable reports that hundreds of Iraqis living in Kuwait and suspected of being opponents of the Iraqi troops, and that thousands of foreign citizens in Iraq and Kuwait, have been prevented from leaving those countries since the invasion."

In the second such call since Friday, it "urged the Government of Iraq to allow all foreign nationals to leave Iraq and Kuwait immediately".

Several speakers Thursday meanwhile argued that U.N. trade sanctions imposed against Iraq should spare innocent civilians by not applying to essential goods and medicines.

In a resolution, the sub-commission took the most stringent procedure open to it by recommending to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights that it "consider the appointment of an individual of recognized international standing as special rapporteur with the mandate to examine the human rights situation in Iraq."

The resolution was passed by 19 votes to four against and one abstension. A number of amendments, notably a U.S. one condemning Baghdad's use of foreign residents as "human shields" and its moves against diplomats, fell for lack of consensus.

An Iraqi delegate told the commission that "it's not a question of human rights in Iraq, but of international Realpolitik". He warned that his government considered the vote "a political stance that may have a negative influence on the situation".

French Ban on Pro-Iraq Demonstrations Criticized

JN2908112890 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2200 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY international affairs editor has commented on statements by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas in which he announced a ban on any demonstration in France in support of Iraq and leader President Saddam Husayn. The editor said: The French Government, which brags about democracy and human rights, prevents the sons of the Arab and Iraqi communities in France from expressing their support for Iraq and denouncing the U.S. and Western invasion of the Arab Gulf region and Najd and Hejaz.

The editor wonders: Where is the democracy and individual freedom claimed by the French Government and the West, when people are being prevented from expressing their opinions about a just, national, and patriotic cause. He stressed that Dumas, who pledged before the U.S. Senate the day before yesterday to prevent the Iraqis and the Arabs in France from expressing their support for Iraq, exposes their false democracy and claims of freedom. He added: Dumas' request from French Interior Minister Pierre Joxe to take measures to keep the sons of the Iraqi and Arab communities under observation conflicts completely with the freedom of expression and basic human rights. The editor reminded the Dumas government of the humanitarian stand adopted by Iraq toward French nationals, who were allowed to leave Iraq as a gesture of goodwill toward the friendly French people.

Popular Arab 'Awakening' Against 'Agents' Noted

JN3008095190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that the popular awakening now seen in the Arab world will in the next phase put Arab wealth in the service of the honorable principles and goals with a view to eliminating poverty, want, injustice, and humiliation.

In its editorial today, the paper describes this awakening as one of the poor and persecuted against the thieves, brokers, and agents of the foreigner; an awakening against those who humiliated the dignity of the Arab man; against those who stole the wealth of the nation, wasted it on their pleasures and lusts, and used the leftovers to spoil a few aides, mercenaries, and peoples without a conscience.

The paper adds: It is the awakening of the genuine, honorable, crushed Arabs against the instruments of the foreigner, the partners of the Americans and the Westerners in the Zionist investment corporations, and those who trade with everything. It is an awakening against those who were appointed by old colonialism and its new heir to guard the Arab wealth. These guards barricaded themselves behind their loyalty to their foreign masters and protectors; they deluded themselves into thinking that the wealth they stole is the best means to destroy principles and use them for their own purposes.

AL-JUMHURIYAH continues: It is a genuine, popular awakening constituting an open letter as big as the size of the Arab homeland—a letter that panics and confuses

the small, worthless agents who appeared as they really are: mean people believing that their wealth can shield them from the anger of the earth and the sky and take them to wherever they wish.

It is an awakening to liberate Palestine and its capital, Jerusalem; to free Egypt from the shackles of Camp David; to liberate the Arab land from the U.S. invaders and their allies; and to liquidate the invaders' agents and restore the two holy mosques to their sanctity as a place for the party of God, not the party of the devil and its corrupt loyalists. [passage omitted]

ICATU Expels Al-Sabah Kuwait Representative

JN2908200690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 29 Aug (INA)—The Central Council of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] has decided to expel the representatives of the defunct al-Sabah family from the Counci.

This came in a session the Council held last night as part of its emergency session meetings. The measure was taken because it is illegal for the delegation representing the al-Sabah family to represent Kuwaiti workers after Kuwait's merger with Iraq. It was also taken because this delegation called for blessing the U.S. and Western military presence in holy Arab lands, in addition to the fact that the delegation attempted to break the unity of Arab workers in their firm confrontation of all forms of aggression against the Arab nation and its dignity.

An INA reporter in Tunis said the representatives of the defunct al-Sabah family found themselves compelled to leave their residences late at night, as nobody has seen them since early this morning.

The ICATU Central Council, whose emergency session was called for by Tunis, began its meetings yesterday morning.

Shamir Says Israel 'Ready' for Iraqi Actions

TA3008154490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Reacting to the threatening declarations coming from Iraq, Prime Minister Shamir said that Israel is ready for any developments in the Persian Gulf crisis, as it is impossible to know just what that madman will do. Shamir asserted that Israel does not wish to get involved but is preparing itself for any possible development. The prime minister made these statements during a briefing on the political situation given to the members of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] faction.

Levi Comments on Iraqi Threat, Arms Sales

TA3008171790 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Dan Margalit in a Jerusalem studio—live]

[Excerpts] [Margalit] Good evening, Mr. Minister.

[Levi] Good evening.

[Margalit] We have just heard, with surprise, the remarks made by the Iraqi Air Force commander. Is an Israeli reaction to this renewed and stern warning called for?

[Levi] Well, all I can say is that whoever takes this lightly is probably living on another continent. The Iraqi threats against us were made even before the current crisis started. Such warnings must be taken seriously. In the past, this tyrant has done what he said. There is no reason to take it lightly.

[Margalit] What should we do about the threats now?

[Levi] Naturally we take these threats into account. Our Army is properly prepared. We will not be dragged into a war of declarations and words. Steps must be taken on the home front as well. I am glad that the prime minister was convinced and set up a special committee on this issue. It has convened. Things that were planned to take months were done in a few days. Solutions have been found. I believe that despite the criticism leveled at me, we can state today that what had to be done was done fast. Today we are better prepared than we were a month or two ago. [passage omitted]

[Margalit] Minister Levi, here we are in the midst of the Gulf crisis. We have just heard the Iraqi threats and your comforting remarks, including the news that things are being put in proper order. You, however, are going to the United States. In view of the fact that there is a great degree of understanding between Israel and the United States and that the U.S. Administration is primarily preoccupied with the events in the Gulf, what is the point, what is the aim of your visit? What is the message in your going there to discuss issues that seem a bit removed: Israeli- Palestinian relations, the replies to Baker's questions, and other things from the archives?

[Levi] Look, Dan, and forgive me for saying this, but you are being amateurish. One would have thought that I am going to the United States for a picnic. This is a U.S. initiative. A meeting was scheduled to have been held a while ago. The events called for its postponement because the President had to send his secretary of state to several countries to prepare this international coalition against the Iraqi aggression. A date has been set for next week. Should I say that Israel believes that because this and that happened we are not coming and reject the invitation?

[Margalit] Perhaps this shows that they want something from you to appease their Arab partners—the Egyptians, Syrians, and Saudis, who assist them in the Gulf today?

[Levi] I suggest that we do not become too philosophical about it, that we use our common sense and be realistic. The Americans want to meet. They have their own considerations. We are partners in the political deployment; we are allies. Today more than ever in the past, open dialogue is called for.

[Margalit] For example, are you leaving here with replies to Baker?

[Levi] I go to hold an open conversation that will deal with more than one topic. There are many issues that need understanding and coordination with the United States, including the issue of deployment in the future. The current trial will be over one way or another. The situation will not remain the same. Another situation will occur and Israel will want to know what sort of understanding there will be between it and the United States.

[Margalit] Allow me one final question. Will you, on behalf of the Israeli Government, take a stand for or against the extensive U.S. arms sales to Saudi Arabia, and probably Egypt as well, or will you show understanding for such sales?

[Levi] I have news for you. I have waited for no one. This can be also called a state secret, but as early as two weeks ago the Foreign Ministry expressed its protest and opposition to this supply of weapons. The Kuwaiti downfall is a good example of the threat inherent in supplying a quantity of good weapons to countries that are in a state of war with Israel. At the same time, we have demanded that our needs be supplied. We are in danger. You heard the threats, and the Americans know what they are about. Furthermore, if there is a need to lease certain items that are expensive but good, it is the duty of an ally such as the United States to accept our demands. I believe that today, there is more understanding of our position than there was some time ago. After all, our low profile does not include not saying what Israel needs or not expressing the level of cooperation and coordination we desire to make sure that Israel's defense is ascertained through quality and quantity, as stated and promised by the president.

[Margalit] Minister Levi, all I can do is wish you bon voyage and thank you.

[Levi] Thank you.

Arens, Pazner React to Iraqi Threats

TA3008164190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1558 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The citizens of Israel can be sure that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will take the right steps at the right time. Defense Minister Moshe Arens made that statement a short while ago at a graduation ceremony at the Staff and Command College.

[Begin Arens recording] No one in Israel is frightened by the threats issued from Baghdad. Nevertheless, we are closely monitoring developments and taking the necessary steps. We are alert, ready, and calm. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 30 August reports that "Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, reacting to the Iraqi threats, said that Israel had already proven more than once that it is perfectly capable of defending itself. Speaking to our political correspondent Arye Golan, Mr. Pazner asserted that anyone who attacked Israel would deeply regret it."]

Air Force Intelligence Chief on Iraqi Strength

TA3108101790 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 29 Aug 90 p 7

[Report on interview with Brigadier General "Y," head of Air Force Intelligence, by Sharon Sade; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] "The Iraqis continue silently developing their nuclear potential. At the same time, it is clear to them that the use of conventional or nonconventional weapons of any kind against Israel would lead to a particularly harsh counterattack. The Air Force is already prepared to foil any plot conceived by Saddam Husayn." These remarks were made by Brigadier General Y, commander of Air Force Intelligence. He added: "The Iraqi chemical threat against Israel has been blown out of proportion. The bottom line is that chemical weapons cause relatively little damage and that it is easy to find protection against them."

The events of the last few weeks have, undoubtedly, affected our policymakers. Today Iraq is marked as the major confrontation state with which Israel might clash. Brig. Gen. Y explains: "Our level of sensitivity to Iraq has changed because the rules of the game have changed. Syria has always been a sworn enemy of Israel. Its president, however, is a consistent person who adheres to the rules that the 1973 cease-fire agreements dictate. That is why we can, more or less, assess his moves. The picture is slightly different when dealing with a ruler like Saddam."

Syria and Iraq both have Scud missiles with a 300 km range. Israel is aware of the fact that Syria has developed an ability to manufacture chemical warheads for these missiles. There is no reason to assume that the Iraqis do not have the same capability, according to the Air Force Intelligence chief. Nonetheless, the Syrian threat, geographically closer to us, has not been felt recently, in contrast with the Iraqi threats. Brig. Gen. Y accuses the media of carrying messages, some of them misleading, that Saddam wanted delivered. "Chemical weapons build-up, extensive deployment of Scud missiles, an alleged ability to assemble atom bombs within two weeks—are all examples of reports that are part of the Iraqi leader's psychological warfare," Brig. Gen. Y said. "We should always keep in mind against whom and what quantities of chemical weapons Iraq had used. It is clear to Saddam that Israel is not on the same level with Iranian cities or helpless Kurdish villages in Iraq."

"Had we believed the Iraqi chemical threat to be more serious than what it is today, we would undoubtedly have issued instructions ordering the distribution of gas masks to Israel's entire population, and we would have taken additional measures. Currently there is no need for that. The public, however, must be made aware of several basic rules of conduct that could significantly reduce, and even to a large degree undo, the damage that could be caused by chemical weapons. An orderly information campaign will be conducted when the level of threat warrants it." [passage omitted]

In parallel with the military activity in the Gulf, Brig. Gen. Y pointed out a worrying tendancy of the U.S. Congress and Senate to approve multi-million dollar arms deals with the moderate Gulf countries. These countries are taking advantage of the situation and issue extensive procurement demands that in the past would have been rejected outright. Brig. Gen. Y vehemently opposed the American willingness to provide these countries with advanced military equipment: "It must be understood that a military ability is not made of weapons alone. It includes training the appropriate personnel, building up a proper doctrine, and so on. Even if the best weapons are given to them, these countries would still call for U.S. aid in times of crisis. On the other hand, the U.S. military industry is currently undergoing a crisis. This is a golden opportunity for it to overcome the crisis. The Americans have an order of priorities that does not necessarily correspond with ours."

Shinuy Condemns PLO Support for Iraq

TA3008183790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The Shinuy council condemns and abhors the support expressed by the PLO and by Palestinian leaders for the conquest of Kuwait and their refusal to condemn the Iraqi president. Their position limits the possibilities for launching a dialogue and for achieving peace, and it weakens the peace camp. This was reported by our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen. The Shinuy council takes a very serious view of the declarations Knesset Members 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah [Arab Democratic Party] and Muhammad Mi'ari [Progressive List for Peace] have

issued in support of Israel's enemies and in support of the principal of conquering other countries through military force.

Paper Says U.S. Action Required To Oust Saddam

TA3108114690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Aug 90 p B1

[Commentary by Poles: "Finishing A Good Deed"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] As far as terminating the occupation of Kuwait, reinstating its legitimate rulers and, of course, releasing the hostages, Bush's determination should not be held in doubt. But the same certainty does not apply to the question of whether the United States needs a military operation to remove Saddam Husayn and destroy Iraq's belligerent might. Reluctance about the first two objectives is already being voiced in Washington. If the Iraqi tyrant gives up on his Kuwaiti adventure, pressure is expected to be brought upon the White House to call off the operation "and bring the boys back home."

As things look now, Saddam Husayn cannot be expected to be that smart. And if he digs in his heels about the invasion there is no telling how the United States will wriggle itself out of the affair without suffering a painful loss of prestige. Therefore, it is too early to rule out the possibility of war even if all the hostages are let free, although in that eventuality U.S. public support for the White House policy may weaken.

As was the case with Korea and Vietnam, the United States will have to wage war as it tries to overcome enormous logistic difficulties, while the Iraqi Army will have the advantage of short supply routes. Naval transportation is needed to equip large numbers of troops with heavy weaponry, and it is hard to tell if the optimistic predictions of some U.S. generals will come true that the war will be short, or even very short, and will end with minimal casualties.

George Bush recently said that one of the goals of the U.S. military effort was to "maintain stability in the Persian Gulf area;" in other words, not just defend Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] on the eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Is the pullout of the Iraqi Army from Kuwait enough to ensure that this objective is maintained in the long run?

It seems to us that no Middle East country will be able to live in peace as long as Saddam Husayn rules over Iraq. As long as he remains in power, Saudi Arabia and the UAE will continue to feel tthreatened by Iraq's might. Jordan's integrity depends on that of Saudi Arabia, and even Syria cannot feel secure as long as the Iraqi faction of the Ba'th Party holds the reins, not to mention Israel. And, it is no mere coincidence that Egypt is now walking hand in hand with the United States.

It has been contended that a war between the United States and Iraq would be "a political disaster." The question is whether the prevention of such a war would not spell a political disaster in the long run.

Israel is not in the habit of "giving advice" to Washington, but we would be lying if we said that we do not wish the U.S. leadership to finish the good deed it started. Admittedly, an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait as a result of negotiations would provide us with some sort of relief, but this would be temporary and would not do away with the threat of an Iraqi attack on Israel.

Iraq May Demand More Terror For Aid to PLO

TA2908170190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Fear has been expressed in the defense establishment that Iraq may demand that the PLO increase terror attacks in return for Iraq's supplying more funds for the organization's activities. A senior source in the defense establishment has said that financing for some of the groups in the territories has been discontinued. More from our correspondent Amir Fink:

Next weekend will be the last day for summer visits to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. This summer has seen more visitors than usual, due to the Gulf crisis. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have arrived here. Some of them carry the identity cards of the territories, while others have no legal right to stay in Israel. The latter have started leaving for Jordan, but were unable to proceed from there to the Gulf countries.

A senior source in the defense establishment has said that Israel will not allow unauthorized Palestinians to stay in Israel, but it has allowed several hundred Palestinians to postpone their departure by two to three weeks. The defense establishment does not anticipate an increase in unemployment among the Arabs in the territories, because Israel is facing a construction boom due to the wave of immigration and it is expected that many of the laborers will be Arabs.

The defense establishment believes that financial aid from Arab countries to the Palestinians may be cut by some 50 percent. It is also believed that certain sectors in the territories may suffer significantly more than others. The intifadah leadership may also suffer economic damages.

The defense establishment believes that the Iraqis may increase aid to the PLO. At the same time there is fear that in return for this aid, the Iraqis might demand that the PLO carry out more acts of terror.

There has been no significant change in the export of goods across the Jordan River bridges in the last few days. The defense establishment is closely monitoring exports, making certain that no goods that Iraq might want cross the bridges. Next year, an especially large crop of olives is expected in the territories. It is estimated that it will yield some 20,000 to 25,000 tons of olive oil. Olive oil is one of the goods Iraq needs, and an effort is currently being made to find alternative markets, mainly

in Europe, so as not to break the embargo on Iraq. A similar problem is expected to occur with the export of citrus.

In view of the increasing flow of refugees from the Gulf, the defense establishment has raised the sum of money each Palestinian is allowed to bring into Israel.

Heroin Seizure, Sentence Reported

TA2608065990

[Editorial report] An unattributed report on page 5 of Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 22 August notes that "an envelope containing 134 grams of heroin and $10,000 in forged money" was uncovered by the police in a raid on a bedouin's tent on the Beersheva-Dimona road last Monday. The 32-year-old resident of the tent was remanded in custody for seven days.

An ITIM report on page A5 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 23 August notes that "the Haifa District Court yesterday sentenced Shafiq Muhammad Mishlav, a 35-year-old border policeman from the village of Abu-Sinan, to six years imprisonment, including a two-year suspended sentence, after convicting him of dealing in heroin."

Number of Jailed Child Stonethrowers Increasing

TA2908111390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Aug 90 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Excerpts] A number of 12-year-old children in the West Bank, suspected of repeatedly throwing stones at vehicles, have been held in detention for up to 14 days despite the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] officially stated policy not to detain West Bank and Gaza Strip children under 13.

The incarceration of some 12-year-olds alleged to be chronic stonethrowers appears to be an innovation, although it is within the law.

The IDF has denied that 12-year-olds are imprisoned even for a day unless parents refuse to pay bail for them and even then they are usually freed within 24 hours. [passage omitted]

The procedures on the arrest of minors in the territories vary according to age group. Children under 12 are never charged, but are questioned and released the same day. If the father refuses to pay a guarantee ensuring the child's good behavior for a specific time, the child is released but the father is jailed.

Children aged 12 are considered to have reached maturity. The police open a file and investigate. In the past, the policy has been to release the child the same day after bail is paid.

Children aged 13 and 14 are investigated as quickly as possible, but may be detained for a few days before being sent home on bail. If a parent refuses to post bail, the child may spend an extra day in jail while a deal is struck with the parent.

Children aged 15 and above are not released on bail unless they have special problems.

Despite the policy, it has become more frequent for 12-year-olds to spend more than a week in jail and it is fairly routine for 13-year-olds to spend two weeks or more in prison before being freed on bail, sources said.

No breach of the law is involved in jailing 12-year-olds. The law applied in the territories actually entitles the police to take more stringent measures than are currently practiced. The law says that 12-year-old children can be held in police custody for up to 18 days. After that, a judge can decide to jail them for up to a year. [passage omitted]

Population Increases to 4.5 Million

TA2608190890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Aug 90

[Text] Israel's population at the end of last year was 4.561 million, an increase of 1.8 percent over the previous year. The Central Bureau of Statistics in Jerusalem says 3.72 million were Jews, 81.5 percent of the total population. Muslims numbered 655,000, or 14.4 percent. Christians 107,000, or 2.2 percent. The remaining 80,000 citizens were druze and other minority groups.

Correction to Peres on Shamir Remarks

TA3008170790

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Peres Comments on Shamir Unity Government Remarks," published in the 30 August Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 38.

Column one, the sourceline should read ...Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Aug 90 p 1... (supplying page number)

'Aziz, Perez de Cuellar Hold Talks in Amman

'Aziz Arrives, Makes Statement

JN3108104290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 31 Aug (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Amman this morning on a short visit to Jordan. During the visit, the minister will hold talks with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar which will deal with the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf.

'Aziz was received at the airport by Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the Iraqi ambassador in Amman; and a number of Jordanian officials.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that the battle which the Arab nation is fighting now is a historic battle. He said: We must fight and win this battle. God willing, the Arab nation will achieve victory because it deserves it.

Answering a question, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: In Arab struggle, we do not talk about the minimum level, but about the goals. We must endeavor to achieve all of our goals. It is high time for this nation to achieve its goals in spite of the conspiracies, threats, and the sacrifices awaiting us.

Regarding his meeting with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that Perez de Cuellar asked to meet with him last week in New York or Geneva. He said: I informed the director of the Secretary General's Office, who was in Baghdad at the time, that in view of the fact that I was busy with the events and the many visits made by senior officials to Iraq, I would not be able to travel to New York or Geneva. The director of the Secretary General's Office suggested to hold the meeting in Amman. We welcomed this meeting, and I am here at the request of the secretary general.

Answering another question, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: I must wait for what the secretary general has to say and I cannot predict anything now about the talks which have not yet taken place.

Tariq 'Aziz announced that talks are underway between Iraqi and Iran to hold a bilateral meeting, but said no agreement has yet been reached on the date of this meeting.

He said he prefers to listen to the secretary general directly and not to the news media, and expressed his optimism over the future of the Arab nation.

Asked about the departure of the foreign families Iraq is hosting, Tariq 'Aziz stressed that yesterday they were transferred from the positions in which they were hosted to al-Mansur Melia Hotel in Baghdad in preparation for their departure to their capitals.

The delegation accompanying Tariq 'Aziz comprises 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's UN permanent representative; Ambassador Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, head of the Organizations Department; and a number of officials.

UN Chief Arrives, Meets With Reporters

JN3008194190 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Amman this evening, to confer with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in the context of the UN chief's effort to contain the Gulf crisis and prevent military escalation. Speaking to reporters upon arrival, Javier Perez de Cuellar said:

[Begin recording] [Perez de Cuellar, in English] Well, ladies and gentlemen, first of all I would like to say that I am very happy to be in Jordan—a very friendly country—which will provide me with the appropriate forum for my discussions with the Iraqi authorities. As you know, I came here to meet with the distinguished foreign minister of Iraq. I have not much voice, I regret, because I have a cold. And now it is for you to ask questions.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Perez de Cuellar] Do you think I can? They are very well known. There are five Security Council resolutions which constitute the framework of my discussions with the foreign minister of Iraq.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] Is there any room for UN concessions to [word indistinct] meeting with Tariq 'Aziz?

[Perez de Cuellar] You know my dear friend, as far as I am concerned, I [words indistinct] framework of United Nations Security Council resolutions. They are not my resolutions, they are resolutions of the Council. And then I cannot make concessions on what does not belong to me. It would be very easy for me to say I am prepared to give concessions. No, I cannot because the Security Council resolutions are very clear.

[Reporter] In that sense, this is not really a negotiation, how would you describe...?

[Perez de Cuellar, interrupting] No, no, no, it is not. I never said it was a negotiation, because I wanted to believe the Government of Iraq is as eager as we all are in finding a just, and lasting solution of the problem. [end recording]

On hand to welcome Perez de Cuellar were Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the UN representative in Amman; and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Meanwhile, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received the UN chief this evening as part of Jordan's ceaseless efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis.

Talks Begin 31 Aug

JN3108100090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0947 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 31 Aug (INA)—Talks between Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar began here a short while ago.

Vehicles With Foodstuffs Leave for Iraq

JN3108085090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Aug 90 p 16

[Text] Al-Zarqa'—AL-DUSTUR—A convoy of charitable foodstuffs for the heroic Iraqi people left yesterday afternoon. The convoy consists of five vehicles loaded with foodstuffs donated by mine workers in the governorate of al-Zarqa'.

Mr. Khalid Shuraym, head of the mining workers union, said workers at the phosphate mines and the tubes and aluminum factories have donated a day's salary to the heroic Iraqi people. These proceeds from their sense of pan-Arab duty and belief in the battle of fate waged by the Iraqi people for the sake of the Arab nation's progress and development.

He said that various foodstuffs such as cooking oil, rice, sugar, biscuits, tea, and milk were sent to enable the Iraqi people to stand fast against the blockade imposed on them.

Rationing of Subsidized Food To Begin 1 Sep

JN3008055490 Amman THE STAR in English 30 Aug 90 p 3

["Special to the Star" by Ahmad Shakir]

[Text] The Jordanian Government has decided to issue ration cards which will control the sale of subsidised food items to the citizens as of 1 September, according to Ministry of Supply sources.

Minister of Supply Mr. Ibrahim 'Ayyub will give a press conference on Saturday, 1 September, during which he will announce the new regulations and the reasons that led to adopting them.

Ministry sources told The Star that each individual citizen will be entitled to 1.5 kilogrammes respectively of government subsidised sugar and rice. Every person will also be allowed to purchase one kilogramme of government subsidised milk every six months.

The sources said that citizens who need amounts of these products exceeding the ration limit will have to purchase them from independent merchants who will price them according to the market rates. The source expected the price of unsubsidised sugar to rise 350 fils per kilogramme. It is currently selling at 145 fils per kilogramme and there are no restrictions on the amounts people can buy.

Editorial Calls Rationing Test of Will

JN3108082290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Aug 90 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "A Test Of Our Will"]

[Text] The government's decision to ration the consumption of some basic foodstuffs is an important qualitative step made at the right time to bolster our ability to stand fast at times of hardship. It is also a test of our will to endure the difficult situations that may emerge as a result of the hot developments around us.

It is no secret that Jordan has begun to pay for its pan-Arab position, and that the United States and some of its allies in the region have started hinting at a blockade against our country, let alone preparing for harassment against us. This is all because this Arab fortress insisted to remain proud, biased toward its nation and respectful of its pledges and principles.

Hence the importance of the rationing decision as a collective call on the sons of this country to renounce the habits of luxurious consumption, abandon all features of the oil phase, give the noblest image of social cohesion and solidarity, and do whatever may evoke the hidden energies in the depth of the Arab soul.

Before the oil era, our people went through the severest social circumstances. They, therefore, will not be disheartened by hints at blockade, and will not change their principled pan-Arab positions when a ship is forced to change course on the high seas. When we decided to take the side of the promising Arab future, we knew in advance that some parties will harass our country, and that other parties will help the fleets impose a blockade against us. But this country—leadership and people—had decided to be a pan-Arab model and give its sisterly Arab countries the correct example of how to take true pan-Arab positions.

In our endeavor to pass this test, we will have many models to follow. To the west, we have brothers that have been resisting all forms of blockade for 33 months without this affecting their intifadah in the least. To the east, we have Iraqi brothers resisting, in rare bravery, the hardest, unjust international blockade, undaunted by the fleets and the ugliest alliances in this Arab time, which will not continue to be bad.

As we approach an important experience in the life of our country and people, we call upon the sons of this unified family to show patience and endure all that is possible so that Jordan's head will remain up, and so that stances can keep their true meanings and pan-Arab policies can have practical applications. We are facing a test to which many nations have been put. We are at the threshold of a great transformation in our life, and we are confident it will lead to further self power and national resolve, which have ever characterized the sons of this valiant Arab country.

Al-Qasim Receives Shevardnadze Letter on Gulf

JN3008170590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has received a letter from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze saying he was convinced Jordan's vigorous efforts combined with other activity by other Arab states could contribute to a resolution of the Gulf crisis so as to avert an explosion that would bring the most dire consequences to the entire world. Shevardnadze's letter emphasized the importance of Arab efforts to contain the crisis and recalled successful Arab efforts in the past to defuse crises. Soviet diplomacy will continue to spare no effort in the interest of a solution, Shevardnadze said.

Deadline Extended for Egyptians in Transit

NC3008141490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] al-'Aqabah, 30 Aug (MENA)—Jordanian authorities in the port of al-'Aqabah have agreed to extend from one to three weeks the deadline for Egyptians returning with their cars from Iraq and Kuwait via Jordan.

This was stated by Ahmad 'Id Ahmad al-Hayari, director of the al-'Aqabah customs office, who said the decision will allow Egyptians coming with their cars from Kuwait and Iraq to return to Egypt without having to pay fines if they experience delays in Jordan. The previous one-week deadline had not given the Egyptians enough time.

The Egyptian consulate in al-'Aqabah praised the Jordanian decision.

In another development, MENA has learned that Egyptian-Jordanian contacts are currently under way to obtain permission from the Jordanian authorities to unload 26 tourist buses, sent on board the ferry al-'Arish by Egypt to help transport Egyptians to al-'Aqabah from the border point of al-Ruwayshid on the Iraqi-Jordanian border.

The al-'Arish ferry arrived in al-'Aqabah yesterday with 26 tourist buses belonging to the [name indistinct] tourist company. Port authorities prevented the buses from being unloaded, and said only buses belonging to the Arab Transport Company and the Arab Transport Union are permitted to land.

King Husayn Orders Good Treatment for Egyptians

NC2908084690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Al-'Aqabah, 20 Aug (MENA)—MENA has learned that King Husayn of Jordan has instructed senior Jordanian officials to treat Egyptian citizens well.

The agency also learned that a number of Jordanian employees have been imprisoned because they mistreated Egyptian citizens who were returning from Iraq and Kuwait via Jordan.

Army Reportedly Prepares To 'End' 'Awn Rebellion

NC3008162490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] AFP has cited a source close to the presidency as saying that the Lebanese Army under the command of General Emile Lahhud, in coordination with the command of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, has begun preparations to put an end to 'Awn's rebellion.

According to the source, the possibility of launching a military operation against 'Awn was discussed during President Ilyas al-Hirawi's visit to Damascus.

Defense Minister Albert Mansur and Gen. Emile Lahhud held a meeting at noon today which was also attended by the deputy chief of staff for logistics. They discussed the results of the Lebanese-Syrian summit between Presidents al-Hirawi and al-Asad concerning the military establishment.

Readiness Cited

NC3008193190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Defense Minister Albert Mansur met with Army Commander General Emile Lahhud today. The deputy chief of staff for logistics also attended the meeting at which the results of the Lebanese-Syrian summit with regard to the military establishment were discussed.

Sources close to those at the meeting said that five Lebanese Army officers are holding talks on coordination with the Syrian military command in Damascus.

Informed sources in West Beirut have said that several Lebanese Army brigades have been placed on a state of readiness and that leaves have been suspended.

RFL Reports Casualties at Pro-'Awn Barracks

NC3008143190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Excerpt] According to information received by our radio, the explosions in the pro-'Awn commando barracks in Rumiyah last night were caused by two heavy explosive charges of undetermined weight. The explosions destroyed two troop carriers, an M-113 and a (VAP), and resulted in some 10 people killed and more than 30 wounded, some seriously. They also spread confusion and panic among 'Awn's gunmen.

According to the same information, most of the casualties belong to the so-called Commandos Battalion, the Fifth Brigade, and the guards at the Rumiyah prison.

The wounded were taken to Dahr al-Bashiq, al-Arz, and B'abda hospitals and to the military hospital in Badaru. [passage omitted]

Fatah Detains FRC Members After Hurani's Death

NC3008192790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] AFP has reported that members of the pro-'Arafat Fatah Movement detained some 20 members of Fatah-The Revolutionary Council [FRC] in the 'Ayn-al-Hulwah camp today. The agency noted that the arrests were made after gunmen assassinated Palestinian official Samir Hurani and wounded his daughter when they attacked Hurani's house this morning.

Hizballah Radio Reports Ba'labakk Fighting

NC3108064190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Nabih Birri's gangs yesterday transferred the sedition and war against the mujahidin from Iqlim al-Tuffah to Ba'labakk in al-Biqa'. They caused the situation to flare up in the town when Birri's gunmen opened fire at a group of Hizballah mujahidin. Clashes involving rockets and machine guns were still raging between Hizballah fighters and Amal's gangs at midnight last night. However, the intensity of clashes abated later and a state of tension prevails in Ba'labakk and its environs. All parties concerned are currently trying to eliminate all causes of tension and restore the situation to normal.

Meanwhile, the Birri-Hubayqah gangs liquidated a number of brothers who happened to be in the area of the clashes. His Eminence 'Abbas al-Hindi was among those who were martyred.

A responsible Islamic source said the Amal Movement's seditious designs aim to obstruct every endeavor to resolve the existing problem between Hizballah and the Amal Movement. The source added that the movement's evil designs to transfer the sedition to al-Biqa' on the instructions of the so-called Mahmud Abu-Hamdan are bound to undermine all mediation endeavors. The Islamic source urged all key figures to pressure Birri's gangs and their leaders to curb the sedition and safeguard our kinfolk in this peaceful region, or else matters will proceed against the wishes of the devout people.

Hizballah Accuses Amal of Murder, Mutilation

NC3108102690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0930 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Agents from the Birri-Hubayqah gangs have committed an unprecedented grotesque massacre against a number of innocent believers, who were returning to their houses in villages near Ba'labakk yesterday.

We have learned that the Birri-Hubayqah groups have mutilated the bodies of our six martyrs to the extent that two bodies could not be identified.

Further Reportage on Pro-Iraqi Demonstrations

Minister Denounces 'Rumors'

JN3008181590 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1740 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman has denounced the reports and tendentious rumors that have been propagated recently about Syria. In a meeting with journalists, he said: We were surprised by a report disseminated by some radio stations and news agencies about demonstrations in some Syrian cities. We know that this report was made up by a neighboring Arab state.

Mr. Salman said these reports were unfounded and exist only in the mind of the party that propagated them. The minister said Syria is open for whoever wants to see the Syrian position, which stands steadfast behind the struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad, who strongly rejects an Arab country's occupation of another Arab country.

The minister said: We warn those who are in the habit of concocting fabrications whenever they see the Arabs close to achieving solidarity or unanimity on a pan-Arab issue, of continuing such suspect actions, especially since they were behind Iraq's involvement by instigating it to invade Kuwait in order to destroy it and destroy Arab solidarity, which was just about to be achieved prior to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The information minister invited the journalists to visit the cities that allegedly were the scenes of demonstrations. He said journalists can go to these cities unescorted so as to ascertain the falsehood of the allegations created by the neighboring Arab state.

He added that Syria has sent no soldiers to its border area with Iraq. He stated that only the border guards are present on the Iraqi-Syrian border area, who have been there for years.

Mr. Salman concluded his press meeting by saying that the Syrian Arab Army stands steadfast in the Golan, and that its basic mission is to oppose the Israeli enemy.

INA Reports 30 Aug

JN3008133990 Baghdad INA in English 1055 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 30, INA—Syrian troops have put down violent pro-Iraqi demonstrations in cities along the eastern border with Iraq, killing tens of peoples, Arab diplomats and security sources reported on Wednesday [29 August].

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS quoted diplomats as talking about a massive deployment of troops perhaps more than 50,000 to maintain tense order in the southwest along with border with Iraq.

Western embassies in Damascus could not immediately be contacted by telephone. Syria's state-controlled media has made no mention of any trouble.

But the sources, speaking on condition they were not named, said crowds of Syrians poured into the streets of eastern towns on Sunday to protest against President Hafiz al-Asad's anti-Iraq stand.

People waved Iraqi flags and huge portraits of President Saddam Husayn.

Following the eruption of the Gulf crisis, al-Asad has sent at least 1,100 troops to join foreign forces gathering in Saudi Arabia to allegedly protect the Kingdom from the Iraqis.

Iraq's Army is confronting a major buildingup by U.S. and other forces in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region.

The protests appear to be the worst outbreak of political unrest in Syria since February 1982, when al-Asad mercilessly crushed a Muslim Brotherhood uprising in the City of Hamah north of Damascus.

Al-Asad's troops razed parts of the city in three weeks of fighting in which thousands of people were killed.

The diplomats said that some of the weekend demonstrators demanded that the eastern sector of Syria separate from Damascus to be merged with Iraq.

"Troops tried all day to stop the demonstrations and reports from our Damascus embassy said tens of people were killed," a senior diplomat said.

By Monday, the protests had been put down, but the mood remained explosive, he said.

Travellers arriving in Jordan from Syria reported clear signs of high tension, but none who had visited the turbulent eastern part of the country was prepared to speak with reporters.

"I know nothing, I can't say anything," one trucker said, hurrying away, frightend.

Diplomats and intelligence sources from other Arab states confirmed the information.

Al-Asad postponed a scheduled trip to Egypt on Sunday without explanation, but flew to Alexandria on Tuesday for a day of talks with President Husni Mubarak.

The sources regarded the outbreak of protests in Syria as a serious threat to al-Asad, a former Air Force commander who has held a ruthless grip on the country since he seized power in November 1970.

The diplomats also saw the trouble as evidence of President Husayn's growing appeal to the Arab generally in his stand against U.S. and allied forces in the Gulf.

Meanwhile, REUTERS said thousands of Jordanian children led by women with babies in prams marched in Amman on Wednesday to demand food and medicine for Iraqi children.

Waving pro-Iraqi banners, the estimated 3,000 children delivered a letter at the regional office of the United Nations children's Fund (UNICEF) for the Agency's director, James Grant.

Some of the banners were directed at U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, whose countries are the leading Western enforcers of a trade blockade on Iraq.

"Bush: Starving Children Is Not Cool But Cruel", said a banner carried by protesters. "How Many Kids' Lives for a Barrel of Oil?" and "Thatcher, Thatcher Milk Snatcher" said others.

The latter was an apparent reference to Thatcher's stint as education minister in the early 1970s when she cut off free milk supplies to school-children in Britain.

Several Middle Eastern countries have charged that the presence of U.S.-led troops in Saudi Arabia has more to do with ensuring the flow of oil supplies from the region than protecting Saudi Arabia.

"I am here because America is blockading Iraq and banning milk for children there," said eight-year-old Samyah Nakhlah.

Under US pressure, the United Nations ordered sanctions against Iraq on August 8.

The young marchers appealed to children abroad to join a campaign to send milk, food and medicine to Iraqi children.

The collection campaign was set up by Jordan's General Union of Voluntary Societies, which organised the march.

State Employees Dismissed for Misconduct

JN3008171490 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 26 Aug 90 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] The competent authorities have issued new decisions dismissing a number of state employees for reasons relating to their integrity or on grounds of misconduct. The decisions were made on the basis of reports submitted by the Central Authority for Scrutiny and Inspection. [passage omitted]

Paper Explains Motives of Iraqi Invasion

JN3108095190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus, 30 Aug (SANA)—The newspaper AL-BA'TH has posed several questions about the Iraqi Government's claims about the motives behind the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The paper has refuted these claims on the basis of the undisputable given facts and realities, stressing that the invasion has merely brought the specter of catastrophe to loom over the Arab region.

In today's editorial entitled "In Order That Allegations Cannot Override Principles," the paper says: The invasion launched by Iraq with the aim of annexing Kuwait has not found five Kuwaitis in all of Kuwait who welcome this action. This affirms that military invasion is not the means for achieving unity, which is sacred and must be achieved by free will.

The paper adds: What Iraq has done in Kuwait has nothing to do with Arab unity. It is a hostile act in contravention of the Arab League Charter, sound Arab relations, and Arab brotherhood. It stems from selfish ambitions for the sake of frivolous personnel glories.

Within this context, the paper says that Kuwait is an Arab country teeming with nationalists and unionists, like any other Arab country. However, none of these people had any praise for the evil deeds inflicted on their country by the Iraqi regime.

AL-BA'TH also refers to the Iraqi claim that its invasion of Kuwait is a jihad for championing Islam. It says: If this claim were true, why did Iraq fight the Islamic Revolution in Iran for eight years? Why did Iraq provide rebel officer Michel 'Awn with arms with which he could kill Muslims and nationalists?

As for Iraq's claim that the motives behind its invasion of Kuwait are related to the distribution of the pan-Arab wealth, AL- BA'TH refutes this claim by saying: Iraq's annual income exceeded $40 billion in 1980. What has the pan-Arab case gained, what have the poor of the Arabs gained, or rather, what have the poor of Iraq themselves gained?

Within the context of responding to the Iraqi regime's claims about its concern for achieving unity, the paper reveals that this regime turned its back on a Syrian unity proposal prior to the last Baghdad summit just as it has turned its back on scores of other Syrian proposals.

The paper wonders: Which is more important for Arab unity, the unity of Syria and Iraq or the forceful annexation of Kuwait in a manner which harms the concept of unity and its values, displaces the Arab citizen, subjugates him, extorts his savings and money, and throws him into unemployment and the mazes of the unknown?

The paper concludes: What Iraq did is rejected on the Arab, regional, and international levels. Everyone is calling for saving the Arab nation and Iraq, in particular, through the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces and the restoration of normalcy in Kuwait.

Khaddam Confers With Lebanese Labor Minister

JN2908201590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus—At 1900 today Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Labor Minister Michel Sasin. The talks during the meeting focused on the Lebanese situation and developments. They also discussed the future steps to implement the Lebanese

national reconciliation charter and end the Lebanese crisis; and ways to reinforce the constitutional institutions, spread the government's power in the various Lebanese areas, and end the abnormal situation that still obstructs the unity of the country and the legitimate government's exercise of its responsibilities.

Khaddam said that Syria will continue to give every means of support to the legitimate government and to the fraternal Lebanese people to save them from their long tribulations.

Committee To Discuss Oil for Lebanon

JN3008194590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Dr. Matanyus Habib, minister of oil and mineral resources, received today Dr. Nazih al-Bizri, Lebanese minister of economy, and his delegation in the presence of Dr. Nadir Nabulsi, assistant minister for oil affairs.

At the outset of the meeting, the guest minister spoke about the importance of his visit to Syria to strengthen cooperation between Syria and Lebanon in all economic fields, particularly in the field of oil and gas. Dr. al-Bizri said: We believe that Syria is Lebanon's economic depth. Through cooperation, integration, and coordination between the two governments, we can resolve all matters and arrive at a sound course for investment.

Dr. Habib praised the strong relations between the two states, reaffirming his ministry's readiness to reinforce these relations, supply Lebanon with all its oil and gas needs, carry out joint projects to guarantee the interests of the two sisterly countries, and provide the Arab people in Lebanon with the fuel needed in the industrial sectors, for electrical power generation, domestic use, and other uses. The minister said that we, in Syria, will support the Lebanese people in the service of the common pan-Arab interests.

At the end of the meeting, it was decided to form joint committees of specialist technicians in the two countries to prepare studies and propose practical solutions to reinforce and develop the constructive cooperation in the interest of the two fraternal peoples and countries.

Afghanistan

Government Concerned Over Nationals in Kuwait

BK2908161290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1555 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug 29 (AFP)—Some 3,500 Afghan nationals have escaped from occupied Kuwait and a majority of them have reached Saudi Arabia, government sources said here Wednesday. The sources said the first batch of some 1,000 Afghans fled across the border of the tiny emirate some four days ago on buses to Saudi Arabia because of the gulf crisis.

Others including a large number of businessmen who had left Afghanistan years ago to settle in Kuwait had also escaped on road routes, leaving their property behind, the sources said. Some 2,500 other Afghan passport holders are presently in Kuwait, they added.

The government, which has closed its embassy in occupied Kuwait in line with last week's Iraqi directive, had no official comment on the exodus of Afghans. The sources said a three-man Afghan diplomatic team from the closed embassy were presently staying "somewhere near basra", the Iraqi port town, but gave no further details.

Remittances from Afghans living in the gulf are sizeable and account for a large chunk of Kabul's foreign currency earnings although no official figures are available. The Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah has reacted cautiously to the Iraqi invasion of kuwait, not condemning the action but expressing concern over the crisis. It has also expressed concern for the welfare of the Afghan nationals, many of whom are contract workers.

Mujahidin Active in Samangan, Vardak

BK3008161390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, 40 Kabul regime troops were killed and 60 others injured in the mujahidin attacks on military posts in the capital of Samangan Province. Six tanks and three military vehicles were also destroyed in the attack. The reports say the Afghan mujahidin in their attacks on Kabul regime troops in Vardak province also killed many troops and destroyed some tanks and military vehicles.

Bangladesh

Ershad Urges Iraqi Withdrawal, Requests Aid

BK3008163890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] President Ershad has called for withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and restoration of the legitimate government there. At a huge rally at the (Kasta) Village Maidan in Tangail today, the president said the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait may be resolved after the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait. The president said if necessary he is ready to offer his service to the process of negotiated settlement, but this has to be only after the restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait. Bangladesh, he said, wants the unity of the Muslim world, but at the same time, it is always opposed to the invasion of a small state by a big and powerful country.

The president said the current situation in the Middle East will also affect Bangladesh. About $100 million in remittances used to come from Bangladeshis working in Kuwait and Iraq. After the Gulf crisis, these people are returning home and need rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh has requested friendly rich nations to assist in the repatriation of its nationals from Kuwait. Ambassadors of 12 countries were today called in to the Foreign Office in Dhaka and the request was conveyed to them. The countries are the United States, Britain, Italy, Belgium, Australia, Sweden, Canada, Japan, West Germany, France, Netherlands and Denmark. Their response to the request of Bangladesh was positive.

Committee Reviews Impact of Crisis on Economy

BK3008150590 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] In Dhaka, a special committee meeting has reviewed the overall impact of the Middle East situation on the country's economy. The meeting discussed the possible measures to overcome those. [sentence as heard] The meeting has assigned concerned ministries to examine different aspects of the situation and assess its possible effect on economy. The impact of the Middle East situation has already made imports costlier affecting the economy. It also noted that on the other hand the exports are likely to slow down.

Sri Lankan Delegation Ends Visit, Departs 30 Aug

BK3008171090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan parliamentary delegation left Dhaka today, ending their three-day visit to Bangladesh. At a news conference before leaving, the parliamentary delegation said Colombo wants a political solution to the island's ethnic problem through peaceful negotiations. A member of the delegation, Mr. Bradman Weerakoon, said the aim of their visit to Bangladesh was to brief the government and political parties about the prevailing situation in their country and the Sri Lankan Government's efforts to solve it. He said a political solution should be made within the due framework of independence, integrity, and sovereignty of Sri Lanka.

Replying to a question, the leader of the delegation, Parliament Speaker M.H. Mohamed, categorically said the Liberation Tigers of [Tamil Eelam] were responsible for the massacre of Muslims in Sri Lanka.

India

Official Says Kuwaiti Diplomatic Ties Continue

BK3008141190 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] India has clarified that it continues its diplomatic relations with the Government of Kuwait and has not recognized annexation or merger of Kuwait into Iraq. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the Kuwaiti ambassador in India continues to be treated on the same basis as any other ambassador. A special envoy of the amir of Kuwait is expected in Delhi. The spokesman said that the staff of the Indian Embassy in Kuwait was largely moved out as there was no option. However, skeleton staff continues to be at the embassy and the government is in daily contact with Kuwait to monitor repatriation of Indian nationals and ensure their welfare.

Giving details of the situation regarding repatriation, the spokesman advised Indian nationals in Kuwait and Baghdad not to take the land routes via Turkey and Iran till adequate arrangements are made for their further movement. He pointed out that currently there is no alternative route except Jordan to vacate people by civil flights. Overflight clearances for Air Force planes to pick up Indian nationals from Baghdad, Basra, and Kuwait are yet to be available.

Committee To Ensure Welfare of Citizens in Gulf

BK3008164590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] A Cabinet committee has been set up to look after the welfare of Indian nationals in the Gulf. The committee will particularly consider the repatriation and other difficulties faced by Indians stranded in Kuwait and Iraq. The members of the Cabinet committee are Mr. I.K. Gujral, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, Mr. Arangil Sreedharan, and Mr. Harikishore Singh. Simultaneously, a secretaries' committee has also been set up to consider the issue.

858 Nationals Arrive in Bombay From Amman

BK3008170290 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Another batch of 858 Indians arrived in Bombay today from Amman in three special Air India flights. With this, over 8,100 Indians stranded in the Gulf have been evacuated. Air India also operated three more special flights to Amman to bring back Indians stranded in Jordan's capital. The flights are scheduled to land in Bombay tomorrow.

Over 95,000 Refugees Reported in Tamil Nadu

BK3108095290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] A fresh batch of 800 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees arrived at Rameswaram yesterday. According to official sources in Madras, the total number of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who had come to Tamil Nadu had crossed 95,000.

Further Reportage on Najibullah's New Delhi Visit

Najibullah Gives Reception Speech

LD3008215990 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, 30 Aug (BAKHTAR)—Statement by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, at an official reception given in his honor by the Indian president at Rashtrapati Bhaven Palace [in Delhi] on 29 August

Your Excellency President Ramaswamy Iyer Venkataraman,
Your Excellency Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh,
Dear friends,
It is a matter of great pleasure for me and my entourage to have another opportunity to pay a visit to the ancient land of India. I would like to express my profound gratitude for the warm hospitality and welcome accorded to us during our stay in the Republic of India and for the good and friendly words that Your Excellency expressed about my country and myself.

We attach great importance to the meetings and the exchange of views with the Indian leaders which have become a good tradition in relations between our two countries. Undoubtedly the present visit by the high-ranking delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan, which is taking place at a special stage in the history of relations between our two countries, not only provides a good opportunity for the exchange of views and experiences for the further expansion of friendly relations between the two countries, but also provides the opportunity for the two countries' leaders to assess in detail the situations in the region and international developments.

Afghan-Indian relations, which have always been imbued with a spirit of mutually beneficial trust, cooperation, and understanding, have a long history. Economic, cultural and political relations between our countries and the two countries' membership in the Nonaligned Movement have linked the people of our two countries. Fortunately the multilateral links between Afghanistan and India, which are in complete accord with the two countries' interests and in the interest of peace and security in the region, have consistently promoted the region's full development and growth.

Your Excellencies, our visit to your great country is taking place at a time when fast-breaking and eye-catching international developments toward the consolidation of the new detente, the relaxation of regional tensions, and the increasing tendency toward the solution of questions through political means are current. No

part of the world, including our region, can remain unaffected by the powerful and comprehensive influences of these changes and developments.

Here I would like to note that the recent developments in the Gulf are the cause of serious concern to us. These developments have caused discord among the Arab countries and have also provided the grounds for a fresh military flare-up and has brought about a dangerous situation. We hope international efforts will prevent the flames of such a military confrontation.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, whose foreign policy is based on the solid foundations of nonalignment, peaceful coexistence, respect for the UN Charter and other international standards, wants the preservation and consolidation of peace, security, and stability in the region and in the world, and further democratization of international relations.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has always supported and will support the policy of the Republic of India for the defense of its territorial integrity, repulsing subversive and interventionist action from abroad, and for the transformation of the Indian Ocean and the whole region to a peace zone devoid of tension.

The Republic of Afghanistan has expressed concern and has denounced those policies and activities which threaten the stability and normalization of the situation in the region.

Your Excellencies, the enormous gains of the Republic of India in various spheres of economy, science and technology have always been the source of delight and admiration among the Afghan people, and we Afghans sincerely hope that our Indian friends achieve more formidable and greater successes. We in the Republic of Afghanistan appreciate that the Republic of India, having enormous international credit and prestige, has supported the full implementation of the spirit and provisions of the Geneva Accords, the policy of national reconciliation, and the solution of issues by political and peaceful means, and that it has resolutely supported our just stance.

The Afghan people appreciate and will always remember the comprehensive and effective assistance by their Indian friends at this special and sensitive time for healing their war wounds and for rebuilding Afghanistan. We also express appreciation for your continuous support [words indistinct].

The specific and practical steps and the initiative by the honorable leaders of India for the expansion and consolidation of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries are cause for our profound delight and satisfaction: the successful convocation of the ninth session of the Afghan-Indian joint commission on economic and technical cooperation covering various aspects of assistance by India in various spheres of life is a vivid example of this cooperation.

Your Excellencies, the Republic of Afghanistan deeply believes that a just and practical solution of Afghan internal and external issues is feasible in a political and peaceful framework. We will continue our efforts with firmness and honesty for a speedy end to the war and the restoration of lasting peace by proposing a new peace mechanism to meet the interests of all warring parties: the formation of a new government with two-thirds of nonparty members, the convocation of the Grand Assembly by the Afghan people, amendments to the constitution in accordance with national interests and the people's particular characteristics and traditions, the successful convocation of the second party congress which brought fundamental changes in the party's charter and changed the party name to the Homeland Party, the convocation of the Founders of Peace Front—each and all of them are developments which consolidate the political and legal foundations of compromise and reconciliation and which have further paved the way for achieving national understanding.

Your Excellencies, we fully believe that the visit, meetings, and exchange of views with your excellencies will consolidate and broaden friendly relations and will pave the way for new possibilites to extend reciprocal advantageous cooperation.

In conclusion, allow me to wish you good health and further success to you—friends present at this reception—and to all the people of friendly India, and to sincerely hope for the eternal prosperity of historic India. Thank you.

Condemns Pakistani 'Interference'

BK3008164090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The Afghan president, Dr. Najibullah, has condemned Pakistan's interference in the internal affairs of India. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, he said Kashmir is an internal issue of India and stressed that any danger to peace and stability in the region will be a matter of common concern to both Afghanistan and India. Dr. Najib pointed out that after the signing of the Geneva accord on Afghanistan in 1988, Pakistan has violated the accord several times.

The Afghan president also called for Indian initiative to hold a conference of South Asian countries to help resolve the conflict in his country.

Spokesman Statement on Talks

BK3108110590 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0905 GMT 31 Aug 90

["Official Spokesman's Statement on Dr. Najibullah's Visit on 29th Aug., 90"—ISI headline]

[Text] The prime minister, while welcoming the Afghan president, said that it was an honour for India that our closest friend has visited us in the first year of our coming to office. He said that perhaps friend was not an

appropriate term, we should use the word brother. He underlined the special significance of President Najibullah's visit in the context of important developments which have taken place in the region. The prime minister also congratulated the Afghan president for having met with courage and wisdom the challenges posed to the Afghan nation and warmly welcomed his efforts at national reconciliation. He underlined that it was not only in India's interest to see a stable, forward looking and non-aligned Afghanistan, but it was also important for regional peace.

In response, Dr. Najibullah [words indistinct] the prime minister and agreed that Indo-Afghan friendship [words indistinct] stability in the region. He gave a very detailed account of internal developments in Afghanistan and efforts being made by him. He described the lack of fulfillment of commitments made under the Geneva accord by Pakistan, which having signed them, not only did not cease hostilities, but actually enhanced its offensive and aggressive postures. The ability of the Afghan people to defend their country had disproved the many speculators in the West, and some closer to Afghanistan, who had predicted that the Afghan Government will collapse within days of the departure of Soviet troops.

In this context he expressed the gratitude of the Afghan people to India for the latter's sagacious perspicacity in having perceived the true situation in Afghanistan. He paid a very warm tribute to our ambassador, Mr Hamid Ansari, and said that he lived through those hard times and shared our difficulties and exposed himself to the same dangers as all of us. He then described the efforts that he has been making to speed up the process of national reconciliation. He said that the entire spectrum of opinion in Afghanistan was within the ambit of dialogue initiated by him. He said that over a lakh [100,000] of mujahidin have joined the government forces and that over one and half lakh refugees have returned and despite hurdles being put in their way, another two and half lakhs will come back in the next two years. France and Italy have opened their embassies in Kabul. He referred to Baker-Shevardnadze talks on a solution to the Afghan problem and, while welcoming the US-Soviet joint efforts to arrive at a solution, underlined that the solution lies in Afghan hands and must be found through a process of dialogue, which has already been initiated.

On bilateral relations, Dr Najib spoke of the historic role played by India. [He said] Afghanistan had much to learn from India's experiments in democracy and expressed gratitude for the entire range of health, education and other fields, in which India had assisted Afghanistan. He expected India to play a much bigger role in the process of reconstruction as soon as peace returned to Afghanistan. He made two specific proposals. One that we increase the amount of wheat supply to Afghanistan and two we open a line of credit for 400 Indian buses. The PM [prime minister] asked the respective ministers of the two countries to finalise a decision on the proposals before Dr Najibullah left India.

Dr Najib condemned the interventionist policy of Pakistan, its provocations and its assistance to secessionist elements operating from its territory. He said that all these activities, combined with strengthening of its armed forces to levels higher than its legitimate needs, warrant and development of nuclear plants, were indicative of Pak [Pakistani] policy of destabilisation which posed a serious threat to both India and Afghanistan. [sentence as heard] In this context, he said that he wished to declare decisively and un-equivocally Afghanistan's support for the righteous position of India and steps taken by it to preserve its territorial integrity and secular way of life for peace in the region.

He expressed concern about the serious deterioration that has taken place in the Gulf. He said that food and medicine were paramount needs of the region, and that the United Nations had an important role to play in the reduction of tension. On Afghanistan's part he said that they would spare no effort to assist the United Nations in this direction.

The PM underlined that there could be no military solution to the Gulf crisis and that any attempt to use military force unilaterally will only aggravate the situation. The United Nations was a vital forum for this purpose. He said that while India stood by the United Nations in the matter of sanctions, food and medicines ought to be allowed into Iraq and Kuwait on humanitarian grounds.

The PM agreed with Dr Najibullah that the solution to the Afghan problem lay with the Afghan people only. He expressed concern about the influx of weapons into this region and said that it had become an open market for weapons, many of which were flowing into our territory. In the sphere of bilateral relations with our neighbours, Pakistan was the only exception to have not responded to our efforts for improving relations with our neighbours.

In response to questions, the spokesman said that:-

Dr Najib was told by both the PM and EAM [external affairs minister] that India was working actively to include Afghanistan in SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation].

There was not only discussion on the non-aligned initiative on Afghanistan but also a suggestion from President Najibullah for a South Asian initiative in which India could take a lead.

Sikh Leader Says Punjab Should Secede Peacefully

BK3108120690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1124 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 31 (AFP)—India's leading Sikh politician was Friday quoted as saying he would campaign for Punjab's secession peacefully if his party wins a U.N.-supervised referendum it has demanded in the troubled border state. THE TIMES OF INDIA newspaper reported that Simranjit Singh Mann, who heads his faction of the

Sikh Akali Dal Party, felt that it was "better to part (with India) peacefully through the ballot."

The Akali Dal (Mann Group) has demanded a referendum in northern Punjab State under the auspices of the United Nations to determine whether Sikhs wanted to remain a part of India or go independent. The English-language daily quoted the police officer-turned-politician as saying that if his party won the plebiscite, it would demand "the creation of a sovereign, independent and separate Sikh nation, Khalistan."

Mr. Mann, who is now touring Punjab on foot, also described Sikh militants fighting violently for Khalistan as "freedom fighters of the Sikh community and (who) have an honoured place in the party and in our minds and hearts." THE TIMES also quoted Mr. Mann as saying in an interview in Chandigarh, the Punjabi capital, that his Akali Dal would send a letter to the United Nations shortly requesting a referendum in Punjab.

The Akali Dal led by Mr. Mann, the most powerful Sikh political party in Punjab, put six members in federal parliament in the November general elections while three independent nominees also were elected with the party's support. One Akali Dal (Mann) MP was subsequently murdered, while Mr. Mann himself quit his parliament seat this month to protest orders banning him from carrying a sword inside the federal parliament.

Mr. Mann has been dubbed by critics as an extremist who in April called Sikhs not to back the Indian Government in the event of a war with neighbouring Pakistan over Kashmir, which is disputed by New Delhi and Islamabad. He said then that Sikhs, who form a majority in Punjab, were fighting "for democracy, constitutionalism and human rights.... The world has changed but our Rip Van Winkles are still sleeping."

New Delhi in April promised to hold elections in Punjab, where there has been no elected government since May 1987, within six months. The announcement triggered fears that Sikh rebels would gain control of the state assembly.

Mr. Mann's Akali Dal has said it was not interested in contesting elections to the Punjab legislature, and called off unity talks with the other faction of the party led by former State Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal.

At least 1,618 people have died so far this year in the bloody Khalistan campaign which erupted in 1983. India accuses Pakistan of arming the militants, but Islamabad has refuted the charge.

Remarks Condemned in Lok Sabha

BK3108095890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Members from various sections in the Lok Sabha today condemned the reported statement of the Akali Dal-Mann leader, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, calling for a UN-supervised referendum in Punjab and demanding an independent state. The matter was raised by Mr. Kamal Nath, Congress-I. He was supported by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the left parties. They said while the government should continue with confidence-building measures, a definite message must be sent that under no circumstances the country will compromise with secessionism and terrorism.

Lok Sabha Passes Radio, TV Autonomy Bill

BK3008131590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The Lok Sabha has unanimously passed the historic Prasar Bharati Corporation Bill to give autonomies to radio and television. The house adopted the bill this afternoon amid loud cheers from all sections after a marathon four-and-half-hour voting process and clause-by-clause consideration. The week-long debate, interspersed with intensive discussions with various political parties by the government, brought about a rare consensus on several amendments of far-reaching consequences.

The information and broadcasting minister, Mr. P. Upendra, winding up the debate, announced that the Prasar Bharati Corporation will come into existence by 31st March next year. He said the earlier deadline of the New Year day could not be adhered to because of delay in passing the legislation. He said the government needs about six months' time to fulfill the legal requirements and other formalities to appoint members of the board and to sort out all outstanding staff problems. The minister assured the members that the interests of the employees will not be jeopardized.

Replying to a clause-by-clause consideration, the minister said no essential features or basic objectives of the bill have been watered down. A large number of members from all sections of the house complimented the government for succeeding in getting through an epoch-making legislation. They said the bill reflects the underlying spirit of the election manifestos of all parties. Our parliamentary correspondent says that several amendments moved by members from both sides, including the ones to refer the bill to a select committee, were withdrawn.

Rajya Sabha Views Civilian Deaths in Sri Lanka

BK3008164190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The Rajya Sabha today urged the government to do everything possible to stop civilian killings in the northeastern parts of Sri Lanka. The deputy chairman, Dr. Najma Heptulla, asked the government to convey the concern of the house and the people of the country to the Sri Lankan government in this regard. The members, who discussed the situation in the island for two days, also suggested for taking up the issue at the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] forum for finding a lasting solution.

Earlier, replying to the discussion, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Harikishore Singh, said India is

using diplomatic channels to put pressure on Sri Lanka to stop aerial bombing on the civilian population. He agreed to send a parliamentary delegation to the island nation to study the situation.

CPI-M Supports Mandal Job Reservation Policy

BK3008145990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has supported the reservation in jobs for the socially and educationally backward classes as recommended by the Mandal Commission. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today about the deliberations of the central committee of the party, its general secretary, Mr. E.M.S. Namboodiripad, advocated the introduction of an economic criterion within these reservations. He said that Bihar pattern can be the process for solving the present situation arising out of the agitation by students.

About the proposal for five to 10 percent reservation for the economically deprived, Mr. Namboodiripad said that this reservation should apply to those sections who do not fall under the purview of the existing reservations.

The central committee of the party also took stock of the situation in Kashmir, Punjab, and Assam, and urged the government to take effective measures to tackle the situation there. It expressed concern over the escalating prices of all essential commodities.

Janata Dal MP Resigns in Protest of Reservation

BK3008161190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] A Janata Dal member, Mr. Vishvendra Singh, has resigned from his Lok Sabha seat. He represented Bharatpur Constituency in Rajasthan. According to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the resignation is under consideration of the speaker. Mr. Vishvendra Singh is understood to have resigned protesting against the reservation issue.

Curfew in Cuttack City After Student Agitation

BK3008153590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] In Orissa, dusk-to-dawn curfew has been imposed in Cuttack City as the law and order situation worsened in the wake of students' agitation against the reservation policy. One person died and several were wounded when police opened fire to control the demonstrators. District authorities have announced closure of colleges in the district for 15 days. The chief minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, has appealed to the agitationists to refrain from agitational activities on the reservation issue.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Arrives 30 Aug

OW3008121890 Beijing XINHUA in English 1210 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] New Delhi, August 30 (XINHUA)—Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Qi Huai Yuan arrived here this morning for the second meeting of the Sino-Indian joint working group on border and annual bilateral consultations between the foreign ministers of the two countries.

He was met at the airport by Indian Foreign Secretary M. Dubey.

The first meeting of joint working group on border was held in Beijing in July, 1989. The group was set up during former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in December, 1988.

Qi Huai Yuan arrived here from Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan, where he led the Chinese delegation for the seventh round of Sino-Bhutani boundary talks from August 27 to 29.

It was known that the seventh round of Sino-Bhutani talks were highly useful and productive. The next round will be held in Beijing next year. When he left Bhutan this morning, Qi Huai Yuan was seen off at Paro Airport by Bhutani Foreign Secretary Tsering.

Paper on Likely Successor to Pakistan President

BK3008165590 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Aug 90 p 13

[Text] Islamabad—A "short, friendly and influential" person, who occupies the rather apolitical position of a constitutional expert, is the man to watch in the emerging race for political power in Pakistan.

Mr Wasim Sajjad, who will succeed President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in any exigency, is the one who legally masterminded Ms Benazir Bhutto's ouster. Although Mr Sajjad would never own it up, the fact remains that both President Ishaq Khan and the ruling elite consult him on all constitutional matters.

As chairman of the Upper House called Senate here, Mr Sajjad's primary responsibility is purely legislative. But he packs in a political clout not too many in the capital enjoy.

Asked how he felt about being next in line for the presidency, he told IANS [INDIA ABROAD NEWS SERVICE]; "It's embarrassing, please don't ask this question."

The local Press reported that Wasim, as he is popularly known, was among those few who knew President Ishaq Khan was going to dismiss the Bhutto Government days before the action. As Chairman of the Senate, he has many friends among journalists and invited some to his house the night before the dismissal, but did not share his secret with them.

It is said that on Aug. 6, Ms Bhutto contacted Wasim and asked him to tell the President not to dissolve Parliament and sack her Government. Wasim told her it was too late.

The 49-year-old Wasim, described as "short, friendly and influential" by a former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, is a Rhodes scholar who studied law at Oxford and London's Inner Temple.

He practised law till 1985 when he was elected a senator from Lahore. In three years he became chairman of the Upper House. Though his political achievements are as impressive as his academic excellence, his critics say in politics Wasim always sided with the establishment.

As a senator he opposed the controversial Shariat [Islamic law] Bill that demands strict religious laws in Pakistan but as now he supports the same Bill.

He often criticised the short-lived Junejo Government and its policies but in 1986 he joined it as Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs in 1988.

But Wasim's decision to join Gen. Zia's interim Government in May 1988 caused disappointment even among his closest friends. "Wasim did what a good lawyer does in our country, he goes with the client who pays the highest fees," said a PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leader.

Wasim when asked to explain his decision to join the Zia Government in 1988, said he did not feel bad for siding with a dictator because "I continued to do what I was doing before (working as the Law Minister)."

"One is very hurt when one hears of horse-trading, people changing loyalties, and politicians trying to take advantage of their positions," he said.

Iran

Velayati 'Roundtable' Views Gulf Crisis

LD3008202190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1620 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Political roundtable program with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Dr. Ruhani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, and unidentified moderator; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Dear viewer, we now invite you to watch this week's political roundtable, which comprises a debate on the recent developments in the Persian Gulf crisis, and Iraq's military onslaught against Kuwait. The participants in this program are Dr. Velayati, the honorable minister of foreign affairs, and Dr. Ruhani, the honorable secretary of the Supreme National Security Council. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] My first question concerns the nature of the Persian Gulf crisis and the Iraqi military onslaught against Kuwait; do they have a purely American nature, that is to say, was it the United States which was behind this event? Some believe that the contrary is true, that is to say that perhaps the Soviets were behind this event. Or could it have been that perhaps they were both involved? Or was it Saddam's megalomania that led to that invasion?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With greetings to the dear viewers, I would like to point out that perhaps it would have been easier had one specified a simple and predesigned formula with respect to the highly complex issues involving the highly sensitive regions in the world. I would like to say that there were many factors involved in this issue. For one, the Iraqi Government's view was certainly effective in this existing desire for expansionism. The Iraqi Government's problems—its colossal debts, the Kuwait Governments adoption of a tough stance with regards to the continuation of its aid to Iraq, and the numerous problems faced by Iraq in the aftermath of the [Iran-Iraq] war—forced it to try to seek a way out of such an extremely complex deadlock. [passage omitted]

According to a number of reports that we have received from informed sources, other events were supposed to have followed this crisis—like a game of dominos—but that did not happen. This indicates that the predictions did not turn out the way they were expected to. There is no denying the fact that the U.S. Government, which has now deployed forces in the region, is exploiting this situation which it has used as a pretext. But there were less costly pretexts which the United States could have used for gaining a foothold in such a sensitive region in the world. I think it unlikely, however that this was a predesigned scenario. Nevertheless, the Iraqis had pursued a desire for expansionism, or gaining concessions. The Americans were also seeking a pretext for establishing a more active presence in the highly sensitive and profitable region of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, specifically in the wake of the East-West detente. The Arab world did not have the necessary preparedness for taking such an action [sending forces]; As you have seen, after what happened, all that they had weaved together disintegrated from many dimensions.

[Moderator] Excuse me, Mr. Velayati, but in my view, the issue here is that Iraq could have realized many of the aims which you mentioned, through diplomatic means, yet it opted for a military one. Why?

[Velayati] It is not certain that Iraq could have realized its aims through diplomatic means. The Iraqi debts are very high, and no country in the region was willing to indemnify Iraq's debts. I can says that politically, it was facing a deadlock. We have no good reason which may suggest that Iraq could have resolved its problems—the most significant of which concerns finance—through diplomatic means.

[Moderator] The issue of the negotiations which were proposed in the final stages and before the military operations, would probably have been successful for the Iraqis. Do you not think so?

[Velayati] On the basis of some information that we have received indirectly, it may be that the Kuwaits were willing to give them one of the small islands, as well as writting-off some of the Iraqi debts. But that would most certainly not have been a solution to Iraq's problems. We know what Iraq is after. Iraq is clearly seeking two issues: the first is to acquire large sums of money in order to repay its debts, as well as to reconstruct its country; and second is to possess an acceptable and firm shore in the Persian Gulf, so that it would be spared the vulnerability from which it suffers at present. In their political negotiations with the Kuwaitis held in Saudi Arabia, the protagonists did not reach the solution that was being sought by the Iraqis.

[Moderator] Mr. Ruhani, do you think Iraq has any other aims in its onslaught?

[Ruhani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In addition to answering this question, I would also like to add something to Dr. Velayati's answer. I believe that the aims the Iraqi Government is pursuing were not decided recently. The action Iraq took against Kuwait has much in common with the action it took against Iran 10 years ago. The day Saddam invaded Iran, his aim was to become the master of the very sensitive region of the Persian Gulf, and it is clear that anyone who becomes the master of that region will be holding the upperhand in both the region and the rest of the world. While attacking Iran, he was also contemplating the leadership of the Arab world, hence claiming from the start that he had attacked Iran in order to defend the interests of the Arabs. [passage omitted] However, now that it has attacked an Arab country, he can not say that, so he is saying that the Arab world is divided into two worlds: The rich and the poor. [passage omitted]

With regards to the point you mentioned on whether Iraq had collaborated with other countries towards waging that attack—the United States, the Soviet Union, etc—as Dr. Velayati mentioned, I believe it unlikely that Saddam had such collaboration with other countries—the United States and the Soviets—before this. However, I believe that perhaps he did reach some kind of collaboration with some Arab leaders. [passage omitted] We have even heard that he had made them some payments in advance, to Yemen for example, with a pledge to pay more once it annexed Kuwait. Therefore it is likely that some Arab leaders were more or less aware of the imminence of such an event. I believe that the Soviets and the Americans were probably aware of it, too, although they were not collaborating with him. [passage omitted] However, it may be that the Americans, for the sake of their own aims, did not mind such an event, which would provide them with an excuse to establish a foothold in the region.

[Moderator] Mr. Ruhani, if you don't mind, we will end this issue and move on to the issue of the U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf crisis. Do you think that the American forces intend to stay in the area for a short period only, and then depart from the region, or do you think that they intend to stay for a long time? What interests are they pursuing?

[Velayati] It seems that their intention is to stay a long time, and to deduce such a conclusion is not difficult, as (?they have made it clear through their remarks). It is also likely and predictable, since the more time that elapses, the greater becomes the importance of the energy sources—with regards to the fact that this particular source of energy will neither last, nor can it be replaced—and the major part of the fossil fuels in the form of oil are concentrated in this part of the world. If in the future anyone is to take effective control of the world in some way, then that would be a person who has control over the energy sources that are vital to the industrial world. Therefore, it seems that they have come here to stay, however not in the same dimensions as you are witnessing now. They have prepared the political and legal groundwork for their continuous presence, making respective pledges and contracts with the countries in the region. They can secure their long-term presence by establishing bases in those countries, and even if this event somehow terminated, the Americans will secure their bases, and they will be able to justify the reasons for that, too. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] With regards to Mr. Velayati's remarks, how do you [addressing Ruhani] envisage the future of the Arab world, for example the role of the many existing unions, such as the Arab Maghreb Union, or the Gulf Cooperation Council, or the Arab Cooperation Council? Do you think that they will remain?

[Ruhani] Clearly, what we have hitherto witnessed from this event indicates that such a thing as an Arab ummah or an Arab defense, which the Arabs had constantly sought, has totally lost its value. We had always said that any unit based on race could not be a firm and lasting union. [passage omitted]. I believe that anyone who thinks he can establish a lasting security without Iran is greatly mistaken. The Persian Gulf is a highly strategic and significant waterway with its great oil sources in Iran, as well as our huge shore in the north of Persian Gulf, in addition to our massive islands in the Persian Gulf; all the important and strategic islands belong to us. [passage omitted]. A Persian Gulf without Iran is meaningless. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Dr. Velayati, would you please elaborate on the present stage of the Iran-Iraq peace process, and its impact on the current crisis in the Persian Gulf?

[Velayati] We have said on many occassions that the issue of the Iran-Iraq peace talks is separate from what has occurred in Kuwait. In my view, the peace trend between Iran and Iraq is going well. On average the two sides have been releasing 900-1,000 POW's daily. During the past three days, including today, around 4,000 of our nonregistered POW's were released and they will continue to be released. The same number of the Iraqi POW's have also been released.

Last Sunday, talks were held between the deputy foreign minister of Iran and Iraq on the border. The contacts between Iran and Iraq's envoys which started in recent months are continuing. We see no obstacles in the path of peace. The withdrawal has been completed to behind the 1975 borders. The Government of Iraq has announced its intention of sending a delegation headed by the Iraqi foreign minister. Our president has accepted that idea conditional upon Iraq's acceptance of the 1975 accord. The Government of Iraq has announced its intention of sending a delegation headed by the Iraqi foreign minister. Our president has accepted that idea conditional upon Iraq's acceptance of the 1975 accord. From our side, that obstacle was removed when the Iraqis accepted that. There are now no obstacles in the way of designating a mutually acceptable date for their visit to Tehran.

Phone-In With Velayati, Nuri, Other Ministers

LD3008221190

[Editorial report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1230 GMT on 30 August broadcasts a two hour and 45 minute live phone-in program with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Information Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Fallahiyan, Justice Minister Hojjat Ol-Eslam 'Ali Shushtari, and Interior Minister Abdollah Nuri, with an unidentified moderator in the studio. Mr. Nuri participates via direct link from the Esfahan studio.

The moderator begins by asking each minister to describe the duties and achievements of his ministry.

Fallahiyan says that the main task of his ministry is counterespionage and the maintenance of security. Velayati explains that thanks to extensive international telecommunications and modern technology, the task of foreign affairs is becoming more important each day. The Foreign Ministry's activities, particularly in the wake of the Persian Gulf crisis, have depicted Iran as a haven of stability in the region, he explains. The interior and justice ministers then proceed to briefly describe their activities.

The first two-part question, directed at Velayati, is whether the Iraqi withdrawal from Iran was a sudden and tactical move, or whether there had been previous talks between Iran and Iraq. The caller also asks whether the United States has contacted Iran since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Velayati responds: "About the first question, I should mention that the axis of all our problems in our two year dialogues with Iraq, the discussions that followed after the acceptance of UN, resolution 598, was the issue of the 1975 Algerian Accord. If we were talking about dredging [the Shatt al-'Arab], the Iraqi intentions were that the dredging should be implemented outside the 1975 agreement and in practice they wanted to weaken that agreement. Our aim was that if dredging were to be done, it should definitely be implemented according to the 1975 agreement. Our discussion on other parts of the talks would continue until they reached a dead end when we reached the 1975 agreement. They were not prepared to accept the 1975 agreement and we were not prepared to withdraw from our stands because our people fought for eight years to safeguard their country, dignity, independence, Islam, and their ideals. To have lost the 1975 agreement was under no circumstances acceptable to any individual of our nation and government. Therefore, the issue of the 1975 agreement was not a new issue and our talks continued up to the last few months when together with those talks, we had the letters exchanged between the two presidents and the [UN] special envoy's discussions. Again, the most important point in our discussions was the 1975 agreement.

"About whether we had discussions with the United States or not, we had no discussions with Americans either before the recent events or afterwards. That is apart from the Hague Court discussions which have been going on for some time between the legal representatives of the Islamic Republic and their representative under the auspices of the Hague Court. We had no other discussions."

Asked next whether he senses any sincerity in Iraq's approach and its acceptance of the Iranian terms, Velayati responds: "We hope that the move is a sincere one and both sides' intentions amount to good neighborly relations and a durable peace between the two countries. On the whole, we have not seen any negative points in recent [Iraqi] discussions and correspondence, in particular since the [Iraqi] acceptance of the 1975 agreement to which we refer as an example, which indicates there is no sincerity in that act of acceptance. Of course, every country has motives in its political moves and stands towards other countries. Those motives are respected and we can probably guess some of those motives. But it is not important what motives led to that. What is important to us is that the peace is about to be achieved according to some just criteria and in our view everything is going relatively well."

Responding to the question of whether the United States has made any contacts with Iran regarding the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, Velayati states: "No. We have had no direct contacts with the Americans. It is possible that an ambassador who is in charge of the American interests section [in Iran] has handed a message from them to somebody or has made some remarks, but we have had no direct talks and the Islamic Republic of Iran acts on the basis of its own interests and its own views formed within the framework of its interests, and that is regardless of what others think."

The next caller asks Information Minister Fallahiyan what will happen to the mini-groups in Iraq now that Iran and Iraq have accepted the resolution.

Fallahiyan responds that the mini-groups themselves used to say that Iraq was the end of the road for them. They knew that they were committing political suicide, says Fallahiyan. Theyf have disgraced themselves in the eyes of the world. They should have listened to Imam Khomeyni's advice.

Those members of mini-groups who have not killed anyone can repent and come back, says Fallahiyan. They will have no place anywhere else. The hypocrites have reached an impasse and will try to save themselves. Today we are marking the anniversry of President Raja'i and Premier Bahonar, who were martyred by the same people, he says. Those who have not committed any crime can come back and the Islamic Republic will forgive them, the information minister concludes.

The next caller asks Justice Minister Shushtari about recent developments in the judicial system. Shushtari explains that in order to speed up the process of investigations, cadres had to be trained. He says that his ministry is facing a shortage of necessary cadres and has made proposals to the Majlis which hopefully will be approved.

The next caller asks Interior Minister Nuri why he is not implementing the plan to combat those who do not observe the Islamic dress code. Nuri says that he thinks this is a sensitive issue that cannot be solved with sharp measures. We need serious cultural reforms before everything else, he says. For instance, says Nuri, the people know narcotics can ruin families and welcome the government's fight against narcotics. The people also sympathize with the government's battle against burglary and bribery. But such offenses as violating the Islamic dress code should be explained to the people. Nuri says that in his opinion, the measures his ministry has taken thus far have been successful. With the help of the government policies, the situation will improve, Nuri concludes.

Next, Velayati is asked if he practices medicine. Velayati responds that he sometimes lectures at the University. Velayati is then asked for his own assessment and Iran's stance on the Gulf Crisis. Velayati responds: "The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran is clear and has been explained many times by the officials. We condemn the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. We also condemn the presence of foreign forces in the name of defending the region's security. What took place in Kuwait was a collection of illegal actions and deeds which unfortunately took place and they were followed by other bad consequences. At the moment, the United States and its western allies are adding to their military buildup in the region, and perhaps such a mobilization of forces and military equipment in such a short period of time is unprecedented since the World War II. That shows the sensitivity of the region and the grave situation that is governing our region. Of course the possibility of a military clash has decreased within the past few days, but it has not diminished. There is both the possibiity of a military clash and a political solution but perhaps because Iraq has given some signals to the opposing side, one can feel that perhaps the situation is progressing towards a compromise resulting in the Iraqi withdrawal from a large part of its claims.

"The possibility of the first and the main Iraqi claim being realised, that is the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq, is very remote. [sentence as heard] Following the initial American and western military threats against Iraq and the almost entire backing of the Security Council and the United Nations, and the public opinion against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, it seems that some signs have been evident in the Iraqi Government, moves which do not hold the same initial positions. Perhaps that same issue has prepred the ground for the visit of the [UN] secretary general to Jordan. Mr. Secretary General announced that he is prepared to hold discussions with the Iraqi foreign minister either in Geneva or New York. Baghdad has announced it is prepared to accept the secretary general in Baghdad. It seems they have agreed on a point in the middle and have made the arrangements for the meeting to take place in Jordan. Therefore I can say that the United States and the West were seeking a pretext to strengthen their foothold in the region. The U.S. is on the forefront and others have a symbolic cooperation in order to participate in a share of the spoils of war following the conclusion of the crisis."

Asked whether he feels there is a stronger possibility of a political solution or a military clash in the Gulf, Velayati responds: "Within the past few days, perhaps the political atmosphere has been in the lead, but no definite assurances can be given. On the basis of recent developments, the trend of a political solution is now stronger. Perhaps that is because of the complexity of the situation in the region and the sensitivity of the region that any small change may result in an immediate and strong complex reaction and therefore we might face a situation tomorrow that we did not foresee beforehand; just like what happened in the region. Also, it was not possible to envisage the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in its entirety, and the extensive world reaction against that occupation."

The next question is directed to Information Minister Fallahiyan. The caller says that a friend of his has become a political refugee in a foreign country and now wants to return home. What should he do, the caller asks.

Fallahiyan explains that he should refer to the Iranian Embassy in his country of residence, the Foreign Ministry officials will cable the details to the Information Ministry, and if it is a simple case, there should be an answer within a few days. There is close contact between Foreign Ministry and the Information Ministry on these issues, Fallahiyan explains. Commenting on the same topic, Velayati says that Iranian embassies have been instructed to attend to these cases with understanding.

The next caller asks Justice Minister Shushtari if there is a court which deals with the offenses of solicitors. Shushtari responds that there is.

The next caller ask how many unregistered POW's have been released. Velayati states that so far, 4,000 unregistered POW's have been released, and it is possible that their number is as high as 20,000.

The next caller asks Interior Minister Nuri to give a report on aid to quake victims. Nuri explains that the government has constructed new roads, the problem of electricity has been solved, and temporary houses are being constructed for the victims. Currently, he says,

500,000 people are living in tents and the government realizes that they should be accomodated in some kind of housing before winter approaches.

Asked to comment on the recent earthquake, Velayati says that over 100 countries announced their readiness to help, and this is a good gesture. He says that the assistance is symbolic, as the damages have been massive.

The next caller asks Justice Minister Shushtari why court cases take such a long time. Shushtari responds that his ministry has about three million files that need attention, and the officials are doing their best.

At 1450 GMT, contact is made with an outside broadcast unit which has been set up in a Tehran street. A correspondent asks people for their questions. One participants asks Fallahiyan about how the government is dealing with economic terrorists. The information minister responds that the Government deals mainly with those who act against the country's interests; hoarding and overpricing is the job of other oganizations, he says. The Information Ministry deals with the illegal transfer of foreign currency, large smuggling operations, and acts of economic terrorism.

The next participant asks Velayati if it is true that the Iraqi foreign minister is going to visit Iran. He also asks if it was politically wise to accept the visit to Iran by the Kuwaiti foreign minister.

Velayati responds that the visit of the Iraqi foreign minister has not taken place, but Iran has announced that it is ready to accept a delegation. Velayati explains that the visit of the Kuwaiti foreign minister was initiated by Kuwait. Iran cannot ignore its impartiality towards the region, and if Iran is going to be trusted by the countries of the region, it must accept such visists, says Velayati.

In response to another question, Nuri speaking from Esfahan, says that Iran's antinarcotics campaign has been successful and officials are doing well.

Next, Shushtari speaks about the campaign against economic terrorists, and says that heavy punishments such as the death penalty have been envisaged for terrorists who forge notes and for those whose actions threaten the country's interests.

In response to another question, Fallahiyan explains that if any of the POW's have committed any crimes, they must be dealt with. In the case of those who collaborated with the Iraqis, Fallahiyan says that the government is looking with forgiveness, but if the crime is bigger than that, it should be dealt with by the concerned officials. He adds that if members of the Mujahidin Khalq return and repent, they will be forgiven. Velayati concludes the broadcast by thanking all involved for making this exchange between officials and the people possible.

Velayati Says Nation Ready for Tariq 'Aziz Visit

LD3008170690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Mr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, announced today that in view of the acceptance of the 1975 Algiers Accord by Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran is now ready for a visit by the foreign minister of Iraq to Tehran. [passage omitted]

Intelligence Minister Holds Press Conference

LD3008163690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Press conference by Intelligence Minister Fallahiyan in Tehran on 27 August with unidentified reporters—recorded]

[Text] [Fallahiyan] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would like to offer my congratulations on the recent victories of the Islamic ummah. God bless the lofty soul of the imam of the ummah and the pure martyrs. On the occasion of government week we decided to explain to you, dear ones, some of the activities of the Intelligence Ministry during the past year. As you are aware, the Intelligence Ministry is active in foreign [as heard] departments, counterespionage, security and popular information, which are (?complex). The ministry was engaged in extensive activities in every sphere last year. On this occasion we will mention some threads of these activities.

One thread, which has been unravelled in our activities is the illegal export of antiques, which are considered the cultural heritage of our country and link our present with our past. Since the year 1367 [from 21 March 1988] we have observed that the enemies of Islam and Iran are waging propaganda in the alien mass media to the effect that the system of the Islamic Republic is not very much interested in protecting the cultural heritage. The radio stations of the counterrevolutionaries and their circles particularly exploited this propaganda. We were wondering what the problem was. Thanks to our investigations abroad and control measures undertaken inside the country, we identified some big gangs involved in the illegal export of antiques and some individuals who are active in excavating to unearth various objects which belong to our cultural heritage.

The issue is so important that the leader, after inspecting these items, graciously said: Every one of these items is linked to our culture, and their existence in foreign museums makes one angry to see how some traitors have inflicted such a blow to our national prestige. I hope to explain more on this issue, when I answer questions from our brothers, God willing.

The next thread is the issue of the U.S. spies, followed by the issue of the minigroup called Defense of Freedom, some members of which were arrested recently. I will give you, dear ones, some explanations on these three issues.

[Reporter] Mr. Fallahiyan, we heard recently that the Intelligence Ministry has succeeded in discovering some networks involved in illegal export of antiques and priceless historical items. Could you please explain how these networks were discovered, and how their members were arrested?

[Fallahiyan] Basically, the discovery of such gangs is not a task of the Intelligence Ministry. Our duty is to identify those individuals who are spying inside the country by employing various means. Thanks to our checks and control of spies and some embassies, we discovered that they are in contact with some elements inside our country. As we continued our checks, we realized they were planning to steal one of the precious stones of Persepolis to sell abroad. They would then launch a propoganda compaign. After identifying the agents engaged in trying to smuggle out this stone, we came across a house in Yusef Abad [a wealthy northern suburb of Tehran]. There were some strange priceless items in that house, including excavated items and items taken from open historical sites. There were also precious manuscripts.

In the wake of our subsequent investigations, we came across an interesting apartment on the 24th floor of a skyscraper in Tehran. The apartment was very interesting, in fact. It was like a villa in space linking several apartments. Various decorations had turned the place into a palace of leisure and luxury. According to their own comments, some of the foriegn diplomats who visited the place used to say: This is a lifestyle suitable for kings, and it is odd to see such a palace in Iran. In this same place some items were seized worth billions of tomans. After talking to the people here we seized some more precious items. We are continuing our search to discover more.

[Reporter] How did those networks operate both inside and outside the country?

[Fallahiyan] Their operational methods are such that they have a number of galleries outside the country and also they have contacts with a number of museums in foreign countries. They employ agents inside the country and study the places where items are hidden underground, dig them out, and then take pictures of them and send those photographs to museums. When they are given prices, they transfer the items to those places or smuggle them to their own galleries in Europe to be displayed and sold.

[Reporter] Mr.. Fallahian, ABRAR newspaper asks you to elaborate on the quality, quantity, and the value and volume of the items which have been discovered. Please explain what the Intelligence Ministry is going to do in future to stop such items leaving the country?

[Fallahiyan] On the value of those items, experts from the Cultural Heritage Organization should be able to give details. What has been priced so far amounts to several billions of tomans in parts; it has even been said that some of those items are priceless. Their volume is so great that, according to the head of the Cultural Heritage Organization, 10 museums can be arranged to handle them. Some of the items discovered are of exceptional value, and even do not exist in Iranian museums. Some of the items shed light on a number of vague areas in the history of our country's culture. For example, they give new information on the question of how glasswork technology evolved in Iran.

To make the issue more clear I want to point to some examples and the rest will be explained by experts from the Cultural Heritage Organization. A considerable number of the items are from the Lorestan Cave, including a valuable winged-cow and some golden masks which Cultural Heritage officials have not been able to give a price on. There are also two big silver plaques with three-dimentional designs which are unique in the world; their suggested value is 7 million tomans; a large unique winged-cow and a number of golden pinecones which belong to the Lorestan Cave. In another section there is a glass jug with extraordinary designs cut on glass, which is again unique in the world and the seller wanted $1 million for it. There is a fine bottle which belongs to the Achae'menids, and there is a statute of a cow made of admiralty metal which was made 4,000 years ago and which had been taken out of the country. We managed to retrieve it through some intelligence activities.

[Reporter] Thank you very much. At the start of your discussions, you mentioned the issue of the capture of the U.S. spies, members of the so-called Society for the Defense of Freedom, and their newspaper. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper asks about your views concerning the recent activities of the Freedom Movement and the Association for the Defense of Sovereignty—what are their goals in resorting to such actions?

[Fallahiyan] Basically, our evaluation from their statements and papers to date is that they have participated in psychological warfare against the revolution, government programs, and the system of the Islamic Republic, particularly during the war. Any impartial oberver who [words indistinct] that the counterrevolutionary radios, particularly VOA [Voice of America]. They published such material using their own techniques and by enhancing them. Our point, when we say they have ties abroad, is that aside from the dissemination of their news, they were active in using psychological warfare against our nation and against the programs of the Islamic Republic. When you review their actions you see that whatever was stated by VOA or by some counterrevolutionary elements was aired by them in an attempt to blunt our people's enthusiasm when our country needed resistance and epic activities at the battlefronts. The important point is that we discovered their contacts with certain circles in the United States, in the U.S. Government. Following this discovery, we arrested them and, God willing, they will describe these in future programs.

[Reporter] ETTELA'AT newspaper asks about the arrested individuals and their numbers?

[Fallahiyan] So far only a few have been arrested. However, it is possible that given the facts they are giving us, providing they are reliable, more individuals are going to be arrested. Currently some 20 are under arrest.

[Reporter] Regarding the arrest of the American spies, IRNA asks for further explanations regarding continued arrests of such groups during the past two years.

[Fallahiyan] Following the blow that the U.S. espionage network suffered in 1368 [21 Mar 89-20 Mar 90] in Iran, they were claiming that their techniques could not be discovered by any country, not even the USSR. These techniques included the use of chemicals in messages, particularly for invisible writing. However, thank the Lord, as a result of the efforts of the brothers, the unknown soldiers of the Lord of the ages, we discovered their techniques. They then resorted to transmission techniques and attempted to use this to resume contacts with their internal network in order to carry out their espionage activities.

So far we have discovered three networks at home and two abroad. To give you some examples in this respect, there is an individual by the name of Khosrow Matlubi, a retired brigadier general who tried to recuit his old friends in the armed forces and other places through parties. He started covert and overt operations, gathering friends who gave him a great deal of information which he then passed along. He used to recruit those who were either willing or could be turned through propaganda, and add them to the U.S. spy network. The point that must be noted about this particular network, one that should be noted by our nation, is that these individuals who suspiciously try to collect either classified or unclassified information during any gathering and send it abroad must be watched for on such occasions, so that information is not passed to the enemy.

They should be aware that given the U.S. strategy in the region and the world, it is still an active enemy of the Islamic Republic and is trying to find agents here. We even had occasions when people were hired even though they had no access to classified information. Their efforts were concentrated in various provinces, particularly border provinces, to obtain agents who gather information about all events in the country and pass it to them.

Another network was organized by a resident of Dubayy. He had a confectionary shop there. Anyone who went there to get visas to go to the United States or European countries could become his friend; he would work on them and would try to recruit them for U.S. intelligence. He succeeded in some instances. This fellow is called Qa'mmaqami. He was resident in Dubayy but the brother members of the Intelligence Ministry managed to arrest him and all those he recruited for U.S. intelligence.

[Reporter] RESALAT newspaper asks a question about the programs of the Ministry of Intelligence regarding the current social corruption present in the society, and particularly in schools where pornographic photographs are exchanged.

[Fallahiyan] We should open the issue a bit more than that. We have had, and continue to have a cultural war with the West. The West is trying to inject its culture into our society any way it can, in order to attack our revolutionary and Islamic values. Schools and universities are obviously very good targets for their activities. This has a social aspect in our society. The current efforts of foreign elements and services centers on moral issues as well as other cultural issues. As far as we are concerned, our responsibility, based on the cabinet directives, is to deal with whatever threatens national security. However, if this is not the issue, then the responsibility falls in the sphere of other organizations. The Ministry of Intelligence has tried, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and other organizations, to activate some plans to educate the teachers, parents, and the students. These, God willing, will gradually be implemented in the future.

[Reporter] KHORASAN newspaper asks, what is the policy of the Intelligence Ministry during the period of peace, considering Iraq's acceptance of the 1975 accord and whether there is still an issue of mini-groups or not?

[Fallahiyan] Naturally during peace and when we are reaching victory, mini-groups will lose hope. Given the present international conditions, the developments in East Europe and the USSR—and as the imam's saying goes: Marxism has been taken to the political museum—a large number of them have become inactive and will no longer be active. Others, seeing the victories and the stability of the system of the Islamic Republic, are certain to lose hope and their activities will reduce further as you witness. They will withdraw every day.

We have two plans for the peace. One is prevention. We must identify and offer respective officials and organizations solutions to any issue that may cause unhappiness and may become the tool for the foreign elements and intelligence services to use in their activities and propaganda to recruit. This is an issue included in the law regarding the ministry. The ministry is mainly there for prevention. We enter the opposition phase when we have not succeeded in our efforts in prevention. Considering the fact that our country has special strategic value, however, our revolution has particular attributes that make us a model for other nations, and, because this is the birthplace of the revolution, our enemies are continuously active.

In the period of peace, our effort is concentrated on identification and control of all elements that they prepare and arm before they reach the point of any activities against national security. One of our main duties during this period is to watch for espionage activities of other countries' intelligence network. This is because at such time these services will try even harder to discover the general policies of the Islamic Republic and disrupt our cultural, economic, and political work in order to be able to put pressure on the Islamic Republic in international organizations and other circles. Therefore, our effort is centered on opposing such services.

I would like to mention that with respect to the U.S. spies, our people should note that our classification of their origin of recruitment indicates that most were recruited at embassies, particularly the U.S. Embassy in Dubayy, where they had gone to ask for visas, people asking for a green card, people with relatives in the United States who want to go there, Iranians living in the United States, counterrevolutionaries, monarchists, and lackies of the former regime. These are individuals in whom the Americans made the greatest investment in order to recruit them. Having recruited them, they then would try to recruit their friends and so on. The CIA has put together a program in this way for continued operations. Therefore, we must be aware, awake, and not fooled by their tricks.

[Reporter] TEHRAN TIMES Reporter asks you for your analysis of the regional events following Iraq's occupation of Kuwait?

[Fallahiyan] It is certain that the presence of U.S. forces in the region is not accepted by the countries of the region. They have not accepted that U.S. forces should come to the region and solve regional problems. The other point that became clear to the people of the world is the just position of the Islamic Republic. This is something accepted even by those who through animosity or because of lack of awareness opposed our positions during the war. The resistance by our people in this period, when all countries collaborated to defeat the Islamic Republic and force it to retreat from its position, is an amazing one. Thank God, with the events that have taken place, it has become clear to everyone that our positions were just and that we were victorious. The future depends on our point of view of international events.

If, as they have already announced, U.S. citizens do not matter to the U.S. Government and they are determined to attack Iraq, the region will be engulfed in turmoil. Oil exports may be disrupted, because Iraq will definitely react to this. Thus oil prices will increase for a long period. Should they manage to eliminate Saddam from the region, then it is posible for the conditions in the Middle East to turn into a new situation, and the new government there determines the equations of the Middle East. It is not clear whether Saddam will finally back down due to the pressures. If they manage to overthrow Saddam with an internal coup or an extensive war breaks out in the region, each will have its own repercussions, the discussions of which is outside the time of this conference.

[Reporter] Considering the extensive efforts of the Intelligence Ministry to capture the network of smugglers of antigue items, KAYHAN asks: What are the cultural and political repercussions of such smuggling?

[Fallahiyan] The experts and the head of the Cultural Heritage Organization will describe the damage resulting from smuggling of antique goods. Of course, the identity of each country depends on various elements, one of which is its past culture. The past culture is what gives us an identity, whether it is our Islamic or national culture. Any theft against such culture is a crime and an act of treason. The more they succeed in such crimes the more we will suffer. Therefore, we have concentrated all our efforts on identifying such gangs, stopping the smuggling of antique goods, and even returning such goods that have been taken abroad in the past. The important issue of which our people should be aware is that it is contrary to law and religion for anything that belongs to the culture of a nation to be bought and sold. Our people should watch out for such tricksters who may have maps and are attempting digs, and immediately inform the appropriate organizations of such acts thus not allowing our rich country and our immense wealth to be plundered thus.

[Reporter] How many have been captured so far?

[Fallahiyan] Forty have been arrested to date.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, we have so far witnessed the activities and plots of various terrorist economic networks. Please tell us about your general policies in this respect:

[Fallahiyan] As far as we are concerned, the issues of economic terrorism only relate to us if they are connected with our national security. We have identified many individuals in relation to economic plots which were a mixture of espionage and economic activity both regarding the gathering of information about our industry and also in relation to bribes and efforts to interfere with our foreign purchases. There are many cases such as that of caviar, illegal transfer of foreign currency, and many other case which I, God willing, I will describe in the future. These form our activities.

However, we must know that the work of the Intelligence Ministry is not involved with such cases. We deal with cases that relate to national security. Our efforts are aimed at identifying such networks and, God willing, at delivering them to the hands of the law. It is appropriate for me to praise the efforts and activities of Tehran's general prosecutor's office and Tehran's general prosecutor here who aided us in the discovery of the antiques with their incredible efforts. God willing, our judiciary will continue their cooperation in the future and please our nation by decisively punishing such elements.

[Reporter] AL-QUDS newspaper asks a question regarding the role of popular information in relation to identification of espionage and counter intelligence networks: What should be the method of contact between people and the Intelligence Ministry?

[Fallahiyan] People can easily use letters, a simple method, to pass their information to the ministry. They can also contact the information headquarters of the ministry, whose number has often been broadcast. In addition, they can cooperate with those with whom they have contacts who they know will pass such necessary information to us. It is important to note that in a time of peace when we have tried to show the world the blows

we received from terrorism and agents of international oppression—the world has come to realize this as a result of the efforts of our brothers in the judiciary, the Foreign Ministry, and the facilities we provided to representatives of international organizations; they have come and seen the realities, and our record of human rights is reflected in the world—our people must maintain coordination, awareness, and care so that we no longer have any problems. Through their cooperation with the intelligence apparatus, as I have repeatedly said, we can stop plots from forming, deal with them appropriately, offer guidance to those who have been deceived so that we rech a point where we no longer have any prisoners in this respect or be forced to arrest anyone.

[Reporter] On behalf of all Reporters in this news conference, I wish to thank you and ask you to mention any specific issue that you see fit in conclusion.

[Fallahiyan] I thank the dear brothers for attending this gathering. Hopefully, as a result of the awareness of the dear brothers in the press and mass media, as a result of their explanations, by making the necessary information available to our people, by their efforts to clearly describe the plots of the enemies for the people—this being a great mission for the media where there has been notable successes in this respect. [sentence as heard]

If we really identify the enemy, identify the enemies' colonialist dimensions, because our history shows that any powerful nation in the world has attempted to commit aggression against such countries as the Islamic Republic because we can be an important axis in the world, there are a gret many precedents in our history, there have always been plots against Islam, against independent countries because they can see no power in front of them. [sentence as heard]

Thank God, the Islamic Republic is now a great axis in the economic, political and cultural equations of the world. The eyes of millions of oppressed and freedom-loving people are on Iran today. The efforts of the brothers in the mass media today can gladden them more and more. God willing, our Islamic revolution will reach final victory and all of us, God willing, will share these victories and celebrate the final celebrations.

Thank you very much.

Ahmad Khomeyni Pledges Support for Rafsanjani

LD3008121590 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Wednesday praised the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni saying that all the government officials were doing their best to materialize the Imam's ideals. Referring to the record of his administration the president said that it has been quite successful adding that there was still a long way to go.

President Rafsanjani made the remark at the Imam's shrine in southern Tehran on the occasion of the sixth day of the government week. He said that the Iranian nation succeeded in regaining their lands, enforcing the 1975 accord and thus prove to the world that Iran is determined to regain its rights.

Meanwhile, the late imam's son Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni praised Rafsanjani for his struggle under the former regime and for his services in post-revolution period. More on the performance of Rafsanjani administration and the role the president played in the recent regional developments Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni said, "President Rafsanjani through his appropriate stand and letters (his replies to Saddam Husayn's letters) did not shown any leniency towards Iraq and the U.S." He pledged strong suport for the government of President Rafsanjani.

Minister Terms OPEC Production Rise 'Mistake'

LD3008123190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Mr. Aqazadeh, our country's oil minister, returned to Tehran last night from the Vienna OPEC Supervisory Committee meeting. Today, in an exclusive interview with our reporter on the outcome of the meeting, he said:

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela increased their oil production before the session and were trying to blame the impact of this move on the oil market. This same issue, along with diplomatic efforts in the region, led to a drop in prices by a few dollars—the reason for the OPEC meeting.

He added: Nevertheless, if diplomatic efforts in the region are not successful, I believe that oil prices will still rise. But our point of view at the consultative meeting—which was not really a formal meeting—was that there was no need for an increase in production. We explained that industrial countries have a 98-day supply of oil. Their daily consumption is 37 million barrels; if they were to use 10 days of this stock, that would compensate for 90 days of total production by Iraq and Kuwait.

Mr. Aqazadeh added that an increase in oil production by OPEC is a big mistake—it provides the best opportunity to call on industrial countries to use their stocks. [sentence as heard]

With regard to world oil prices and the sale of Iran's oil, Mr. Aqazadeh said:

[Begin Aqazadeh recording] The price of our light crude in Asia is just under $27 and in northern Europe it is just over $26. Thus the price of our light crude stands at between $26-27 in different parts of the world, and the price of our heavy crude stands at between $25-26. Today's North Sea oil price is $26.50. In my opinion, prices are heavily influenced by regional conditions; with an increase in tension prices rise, while any diplomatic

activity or the feeling that problems are being solved cause prices to change again. [end recording]

Besharati Urges 'Highest' Level Iraq Ties

LD3008202190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati has stressed: On the basis of the 1975 [Algiers] Accord, Iran-Iraq ties should be at the highest embassy level.

Speaking to a group of Qom people, who had gathered to welcome the released POW's, he added: The Iraqi forces have recently evacuated all the occupied parts of our country, except for about 20 square km. Border sign-posting will start next week.

He then described the trend of the exchange of Iranian and Iraqi POW's. Regarding the missing he said: With the return of the first group of released unregistered POW's, registration of Iranians missing in Iraq, numbering 30,000, started last Tuesday. By Shahrivar [23 Aug-22 Sep] all those missing are expected to have been returned to our Islamic homeland.

Finally, Mr. Besharati expressed the hope that, with the re-establishment of diplomatic ties between Iran and Iraq, the long-standing wish of the Muslim people of our country to visit the holy shrines would be fulfilled.

Besharati Claims U.S. Directed Iraqi Attack

NC3008174590 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Aug 90 p 3

[Political commentary by Iranian First Deputy Foreign 'Ali Mohammad Besharati: "The Ignominious End of the Lord of al-Qadisiyah"]

[Excerpts] The large-scale attack launched by Saddam against a country with an area of 17,000 square km was not an unpredictable event. Our officials had warned of such a danger on numerous occasions. [passage omitted]

For the past few weeks, it had been anticipated that an Iraqi attack against Kuwait would materialize. The presence of 10 mechanized armored and infantry divisions near the Kuwaiti border indicated that an extensive military onslaught was about to occur. In his first reaction to the Iraqi attack, even Mr. Bush stated that he was not surprised by the attack!

It would appear this attack was carried out under at the direction and with the support of the United States for the following reasons:

1. The attack was a trap to strip Saddam of his arrogance and egocentricity and expose him to vehement international condemnation, condemnation which has been deliberately initiated by the United States. In this way, it is hoped that ridicule and derision will reduce Saddam to a pariah and force him to pull out of Kuwait. The United States needs a Saddam who will help it keep its reins over the Islamic revolution, not a Saddam who threatens pro-Western countries. With a humiliating withdrawal from Kuwait, Saddam's pride will have suffered a shattering blow.

2. The countries of the region have been stunned by the Iraqi attack on Kuwait and are still in a state of shock. They have seen with their own eyes that the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab League could not do anything for the amir of Kuwait. Now they are mobilizing all their efforts so that they do not suffer the same inauspicious fate as the amir of Kuwait and are placing all facilities, including various bases, at the disposal of the United States. They have more or less placed themselves under the U.S. umbrella (which is something the United States wants most).

3. Everyone is aware that three-fourths of the oil of the free world is in the hands of OPEC members, and two-thirds of this oil is in the hands of the countries of the Persian Gulf. Two years ago, the heads of seven industrialized countries announced that for the next 50 years, the Persian Gulf would be considered to be in the strategic domain of the West. However, the East has one base in the region and that is Iraq. In order to weaken this Soviet base in the sensitive Persian Gulf region, the United States forced the Soviet Union to condemn the Iraqi attack on Kuwait. This stance was adopted at the behest of the United States and the result was the undermining of the Soviet base in the region (which is something the United States will look upon most favorably).

4. Iraq's euphoria reached such a point that it even threatened Israel. Even though Saddam does not have much faith in these slogans, he tried to emulate the Islamic revolution and voice anti-Zionist slogans. However, these very slogans generated a massive reaction in the Arab world. If Saddam is defeated in Kuwait, this, in addition to the international condemnation of Iraq and various sanctions, will transform him into a figure who will not only refrain from threatening Israel, but will even sign an accord with Israel as part of the process of resolving the Middle East issue (which is something the United States most desires).

5. For many years, Iraq hoped to become the overlord of the Arab world and aspired to fill the vacuum left by former Egyptian leader Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. He had the actual and potential possibilities for achieving this goal, but its fulfillment was linked to two elements:

A. By imposing an eight-year-long war against the Islamic Revolution, Iraq managed to assert its position as defender of the Arab entity.

B. By receiving practical support from all but one of the Arab countries during the imposed war, Saddam gained a position which was dangerous for the West. If his abhorrent and unwise attack on Kuwait is followed by an enforced withdrawal, this will greatly diminish Saddam's standing and he will lose the opportunity of becoming the overlord of the Arab world (which is exactly what the United States wants).

6. It seems highly likely that Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir will return to power, since the prime minister of the puppet government appointed by Baghdad is Saddam's son-in-law Lieutenant Colonel 'Ala Husayn 'Ali, and this is not a government which can be recognized by anyone except Saddam. However, the return of the amir of Kuwait will be an expensive operation which may well cost $50-100 billion. This sum will obviously be pocketed by the country which will reinstate him (that is the United States).

Although, it is too early to examine all dimensions of this catastrophe in one article, the Arab leaders should draw the necessary lessons from the recent events. Distributing generous handouts, paying ransoms, and underpricing oil to deal blows to the Islamic revolution and win the approbation of the West and giving $80 billion to Iraq in the course of the eight-year-long imposed war did not benefit them in any way. On the contrary, this very assistance has become a major liability today.

They should therefore mobilize all domestic, national, and regional resources to prevent the recurrence of such a disaster. The Persian Gulf littoral states—which are sitting above the most abundant wealth and resources in the world and which have no alternative in the present circumstances—should forge a regional military-defense accord which will guarantee the permanent security of the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to utilize all resources except military ones and to extend its hand to all regional countries for the signing of an accord based on mutual respect and nonintervention in each other's internal affairs. Such an accord will defend the territorial integrity of the regional countries and protect their interests so that there will be no justification for the military presence of powers and superpowers in the region.

Leaders Attend Cabinet, Majles Joint Session

NC3008093090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] On the sixth day of Government Week, a two-hour joint session of the cabinet and Majles deputies was held in presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majles Speaker Mr. Karrubi, and Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni in the Majles auditorium last night. During this session, which was held for coordination and to become acquainted with the views of the Majles and the cabinet, First Vice President Mr. Habibi and several other deputies and advisers of the president were also present.

At the beginning of the joint session, Majles Speaker Mr. Karrubi congratulated free men on their victorious arrival in the Islamic homeland. He pointed to the need for coordination and cooperation between the Majles deputies and the government and said: From the government of Martyr Raja'i until the government of Mr. Musavi, despite many difficulties, economic pressures, the reduction in oil prices, war conditions, and the enemy's air attacks on our cities, the Majles has supported the serving governments which were supported by his eminence the imam.

The Majles speaker added: After the revision of the Constitution and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's undertaking government, the Majles displayed its support for the government by approving the cabinet, the five-year plan, and the annual budget. Mr. Karrubi said: Despite the post-war destruction, the destruction after the quake, and other daily problems, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government has taken positive steps and begun new activities, and the Majles deputies' advice has stemmed from their affection for and devotion to the leadership and officials of the system.

After the remarks by the Majles speaker, several deputies spoke about the government's programs. In continuation, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani answered the remarks by the deputies and described the situation in the Persian Gulf and the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran vis-a-vis these developments. The president then submitted a report on the government's activities during the past year and on the government's economic-monetary-production policies to the Majles deputies.

Finance Minister's Majles Report Published

LD3008200290 Tehran IRNA in English 1812 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA—Government revenues in the last calendar year (ended March 21) and in the first four months of this year, shows an average increase of 50 per cent annually, the minister of economy and finance said in a report to the Majles, published by KAYHAN daily Thursday. "The gross domestic product (GDP) which showed a downward trend in the previous years, grew by about two per cent in 1989-90 and is expected to rise more this year," Mohsen Nurbakhsh said in his report on the government's economic achievements for the year.

"With regards to the government's increasing incomes, the budget deficit has sharply decreased and this year it is expected to fall far below that set by the Majles, thus making the government free from borrowings from the Central Bank," he added. The growth of liquidity in the first quarter of this year dropped to 2.9 per cent from 3.3 in the same period last year, the report said.

The report quoting the latest statistics said output of large industrial units increased by 4.8 per cent in the past nine months. "The production of staple crops rose to a satisfactory level last year so much so that the government's purchase of surplus wheat from farmers this year stands at 1.9 million tons, up by 48 and 109 per cent compared with the past two years," it said.

The current year allocated dlrs 1.4 bn for procurement of construction machinery while another dlrs 1.2 bn were

earmarked for construction materials. "The heavy industries ministry is to produce and distribute 16,000 tractors, 585 combines, 900,400 tillers, 3,100 buses, 18,000 vans, 7,600 trucks and 1,500 tool machines, among executive organizations stage by stage until June 22, 1991," it said.

On foreign trade, it said said that letter of credits were opened for most of the country's key projects pertinent to building of several oil refineries, petrochemical complexes and oil reservoirs. Since last March, dlrs 2.55 bn worth of letter of credits have been opened or 52 per cent of the amount predicted by the 1369 budget for investment projects, the report added.

On the impact of the Tehran stock exch..nge on national economy, it said "the stock exchange started operation in 1967 and the busiest year was 1978 when rials eight bn (dlrs 114.3m) worth of shares changed hands." "But shares at the stock exchange between August 1989-August 1990 totalled rials 22.2 bn (dlrs 300m). Half of the shares dealt over the period belonged to companies owned by banks and government offices."

On government revenues from taxation, the report said that despite estimates that tax revenue would increase by 26.4 per cent a year, such incomes earned since March showed a 35 per cent growth. Some 57 items of essential goods and medicines are produced domestically by factories receiving hard currency at official rates, 116 items of secondary importance by those receiving at preferential rates and 210 others by those getting hard currency at competitive prices, it said.

On the whole, the report felt confident that the policies adopted by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government since coming to power a year ago, would serve to improve and push the country's economy towards a balance.

Expediency Council Meets, Debates Labor Laws

NC2908085490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] The Council for Discerning Expediency for the System [Majma'-e Tashkhis-e Maslehat-e Nezam] met last night under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. At this session, debates continued on labor laws, and those up to Article 170 were approved.

Construction Jihad Lists Current, Future Progress

LD2008192590 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA—The output of rural industries is likely to grow by 9.9 percent during the first 5 year plan deputy construction Jihad minister Mohammad Javad Iravani said here today. He said 50 industrial areas will be set up in rural areas during the plan, and the investment of 170 billion rials (2.5 billion dollars) will create some 50,000 new jobs.

Iravani said in addition to contribution in the reconstruction of war-stricken areas, the ministry has assumed to dredge the Bahmanshir river in Abadan as part of an ambitious project which has already started. On the fisheries activities he said 14 fishing trawlers have recently been purchased which will be delivered to Iran gradually. "The ministry has been able to increase the amount of fish-catch from 145,000 tons in 1986, to 303,000 tons in 1989," he added.

The Fisheries Organisation was previously affiliated to the Agricultural Ministry. He said the ministry has so far completed large huge grainery projects, thereby boosting the capacity of the country's graineries by 38 percent. The construction Jihad is also building several graineries with a combined capacity of 400,000 tons.

1989-90 Oil Industry 'Success' Reviewed

LD2908205890 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—Iran's oil industry in the calendar year 1368 (Mar 21, 1989-Mar 20, 1990) was one of record success. The twelve-month period which followed as cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war marked one of rapid reconstruction and optimum utilization of inherent and national resources.

The Abadan refinery, one of the largest of its kind in the world, was the first target of the Iraqi troops in September 1980 which was set ablaze only a few hours after the invasion of the Iraqi army. In the wake of Iran's acceptance of the U.N. Security Council resolution 598 reconstruction of the refinery started in August 1988, and subsequently its first phase with a capacity of 130,000 barrels became operational on April 1, 1989.

Shortly after that phase one of the large projects of gas injection into oil wells of Marun of Khuzestan Province and the liquid gas plant number 1,000 of Afgha Jari became productive. The gas injection project which involves a capital investment of upwards of one billion dollars will increase the total volume of the obtainable oil from the oil wells in Marun by almost 2,650 million barrels to reach upwards of 7,650 million barrels.

On April 15, 1989 the pressure reinforcement station of Marun-4, east of Ahvaz became operational. The station pumps about 8 to 10 million cubic feet of gas into the central gas network as well 2 to 3 thousand barrels of gas liquids to production centers.

On August 30, 1989 pressure reinforcement station of Marun-5 became operational with a daily capacity of 14 million cubic feet, and as the bombed refineries in Tabriz (E. Azarbaijan Prov.) were reconstructed the daily production of the refinery reached about 110,000 barrels per day.

As the production of gas for local consumption reached an optimum level gas was offered to people for household and other purposes at the same price as before the

outbreak of the war. Also shortly after the cease-fire the first unit of liquid gas production plant number 700 and plant number 800 of Marun became operational.

The liquid gas refinery of Marun has been erected beside the gas plant and liquid gas plant 500 about 95 kilometers southeast of Ahvaz. The nominal capacity of the refinery is 40,000 barrels of crude liquid gas per day, 19,000 barrels of household liquid gas, and 15,600 barrels of natural crude petrol.

In 1989 phase two of gas injection project of Gatchsaran [name as received] with a target daily capacity of 300 million cubic feet of gas became operational. As the plant started with an initial daily capacity of 120 million cubic feet per day the natural gases which normally accompany oil and which were previously burned were now put to good use.

Repair operation of the largest Persian Gulf oil terminal of Iran 'Salman' (on a joint Iran-Abu Dhabi oil field) which had been extensively damaged as a result of attacks in the war years by the U.S. Marine and air force started by a Japanese and another Italian company at a cost of 250 million dollars. Once reconstruction work has been completed the oil terminal will produce its daily output of 150,000 barrels.

In 1989 also an agreement was entered into between Iran and a consortium of the Japanese Chyodo [name as received] of Mitsui Group, and 'System Projetti' of the group 'ANI' for erecting an eighth refinery in Bandar-Abbas of Iran. The nominal refining capacity of the refinery is 232,000 barrels per day which includes 220,000 barrels of export crude oil and 12,000 barrels gas liquids. Once the refinery has started production it will produce 710 barrels of liquid gas, 46,100 barrels of petrol, 36,200 barrels of paraffin and airplane fuel, 69,500 barrels of gas oil, 66,900 barrels of mazut oil, 500 barrels of tar and 124 tons of sulphur daily.

The motor oil complx of Abadan refinery also became operational after an interruption of nine years. The complex comprises three main units of machine oil refining which can refine 1,500 barrels of base oil (upwards of 80,000 tons in a year). It produces 517,500 barrels of 'Alvand-40' brand machine oil (about 75,000 metric tons) which will serve to cut machine oil imports by about 41.6 per cent.

In addition to the various brands of machine oil the complex can also produce special types of oil including oil for turbines, gear-boxes, refrigeration equipments, hydraulic and transformer oil. Once the complex is fully operational, it will help Iran save upwards of 32 million dollars in oil imports.

The Shahid Hashemi gas refinery which had previously been left unfinished by foreign contractors was completed and its three refinery units started production with a daily capacity of 30 million cubic meters of gas.

In Kangan the first gas refinery unit started operation with a daily capacity of 11.29 million cubic meters which are pumped into it from Naz oil fields. The Kangan gas refinery which is 290 kilometers south east of Bushehr at the Persian Gulf has a target output of about 79 million cubic meters. It produces 38 million cubic meters of gas.

The first filling station for gas-operated automobiles in Mashhad started operation in the sme year with a capital investment of about 300,000 dollars and 170 million rials. It can fill as many as 1,200 automobiles twice a day.

Also Farabi petro-chemical complex (formerly Iran-Nippon) resumed operation. Located at Imam Khomeyni Port and near the Razi chemical complex it offers its products to upwards of 180 plants throughout the country. The complex operated until autumn 1986, but stopped later because of an interruption in import of its foreign-made raw materials.

The complex is the first and the only producer of 'plasticizer' and chemicals for the dyeing of fabrics. It produces 40,000 metric tons of [word indistinct] and 5,500 metric tons of anhydrite phenolic annually.

Editorials, Commentary on Crisis Situation

Unity of Gulf Called For

NC1008153290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "The PGCC Proves a Weakling"]

[Text] Turkey's President Turgut Ozal yesterday discussed over the phone with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani the current events in the region. Both presidents have expressed their grave concern over the recent events in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi regime in an ambiguous statement announced it will start withdrawing some of its forces from Kuwaiti territory starting today. But the statement did not specify the exact nfumber of forces to be withdrawn or the length of the timetable for the complete withdrawal of occupation forces. In fact this statement was merely an effort by Iraq to reduce some of the international tensions and pressures mounting against it.

Following Iraq's invasion of Iran for achieving the status of the region's policeman the smaller countries of the Persian Gulf hastily set up the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council [(P)GCC] in 1981. Despite internal differences, this council had remained intact for one decade.

The Western countries created a great propaganda over the sales of arms to the (P)GCC countries. They created an illusion of (P)GCC emerging as a military power in the region. This was meant to frighten other regional powers. But on Thursday morning, the (P)GCC exploded like a balloon as if a pin had been thrust into it.

The war that was imposed on Iran was only meant to weaken the Islamic Revolution. And one of the gravest outcomes of this war was the creation of a power vacuum in the region.

Recent events however proved that peace, stability and security in the region will not be possible without an active presence of the region's greatest power, Iran in all related decisions. This was the greatest mistakes on the part of the (P)GCC member nations.

In future however all the Persian Gulf countries should organize and coordinate their efforts and plannings to ensure peace and security for all nations in this part of the world.

Iran has repeatedly declared that the smaller countries of the region lack the ability to defend themselves. These countries had an illogical fear of the Islamic Republic.

How great it would have been if, after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, these countries would have united with the Islamic Republic of Iran for protection of regional peace, stability and security as well as preservation of Islam and protection of their own territorial integrity. They should not have sabotaged a newly-established revolution which didn't have any other aim except to bring greatness and pride to Muslims.

Anyway it is not too late now and there is still time for awakening and taking lessons from the experiences of the past. How great it would be if the regional and Persian Gulf countries, instead of enmity and hostility towards the Islamic Revolution, recognize Israel as their real enemy and unite against it.

Iraqi Peace Plans Analyzed

NC2408050390 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] Iraq made new proposals to the United States on 22 August for negotiations on the present crisis in the Persian Gulf. The contents of these proposals were not disclosed, though they met with harsh reaction from various countries. The United States refused to answer this new Iraqi proposal and reiterated its conditions that before it will negotiate with Iraq, Iraqi forces must immediately, completely, and unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait. This U.S. stand came at a time when a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman had said that the Iraqi president's latest proposals contain points that are worthy of attention and that Iraq declared in these proposals its willingness to resolve the crisis through diplomatic means. [passage omitted]

In addition to its major military preparedness and its insistence on continuing the occupation of Kuwait, Iraq is seeking to prevent a war with the United States. Therefore it is offering one plan after another to break out of the crisis through political solutions. Over the past 10 days, Iraq has offered three political plans to that end. By offering them, Baghdad hopes to achieve the following three aims:

1. To exploit the time available and to delay the collision with the United States as much as possible because Iraq realizes the extent of the damage it will suffer should a collision take place between the two sides.

2. To create gaps in the front formed by the westerners and the Arabs who oppose it and to create differences among them. The fact is that Iraq has succeeded in scoring success in this aim as well. This is clearly manifested by the different views and stands of the Arab countries on the U.S. military presence in the region and the differences among the European countries on the ways to implement the economic boycott of Iraq. It is recalled that Iraq has housed foreign nationals in important military and economic sites to avoid a lightning air attack. Western countries fear for the lives of their nationals and hence this Iraqi measure stiffened the unity of the western countries again to a degree that compelled Iraq to react. It is now trying to disrupt this unity of ranks by releasing the nationals of some of these countries.

3. The third stand in the proposed Iraqi plans is to confine any military action against Iraq within the United Nations. Since the latter was set up to establish peace in the world, Iraq is hoping to remove the specter of war and its possibility in the region by confining the crisis to the UN corridors. The possibility of the military solution has receded greatly because the Soviet Union, China, and France opposed the U.S. stand to some extent at the United Nations.

Thus Iraq hopes that the increasing possibility of a political solution will enable it to annex Kuwait completely as time passes. On the basis of Saddam Husayn's policy that calls for peace while keeping Kuwait occupied, the Iraqi president stressed in an open message to U.S. President George Bush that the Arab countries, particularly Iraq, do not harbor any hostility to the West or the United States. He added that Iraq ensured three quarters of the U.S. need for crude oil until the purchase of oil from Iraq was banned and that Iraq opposes any increase in oil prices at present.

At any rate, it is unlikely that any Iraqi peace plan which does not touch on the core of the issue—the fate of the occupied Kuwaiti territories—even though these Iraqi plans might delay an immediate war, would be accepted, particularly as the United States has laid down four conditions as objectives it wants to achieve in sending its forces to the Persian Gulf. These conditions are: 1) Ensuring Saudi Arabia's security; 2) Keeping the legitimate government of al-Sabah in Kuwait; 3) Maintaining security in the Persian Gulf; and 4) Repressing aggression and saving the lives of U.S. nationals in Iraq and Kuwait. The peaceful plans proposed by the Iraqi president do not not include these stated U.S. conditions. It seems that the Iraqi president's principal aim in offering these plans is to continue the psychological war and to attain his phased objectives.

Iraqi Peace Plan; Kuwait Viewed

NC2708174090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran Will Reciprocate Iraqi Goodwill"]

[Text] Baghdad Radio's broadcast yesterday of a letter by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to his Iranian counterpart sent a new shock wave across the region. But this time it was not foreboding calamity.

In a courageous move the Iraqi leader said in his letter that Baghdad accepts all the Iranian proposals for forging a lasting peace between the two countries.

Husayn's letter clearly stated that he accepts the Algiers Accord signed between Tehran and Baghdad in 1975. It is this accord that determines the internationally recognized borders between the two countries.

Besides the Iraqi leader's letter also included his agreement to the unconditional swap of all POWs and the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from about 2600 square kilometers of occupied Iranian territory.

For a fact however recent regional developments have certainly influenced President Saddam Husayn's move to this end. Yet it should not go unheeded that ground has been prepared for such moves through the past couple of years since Iran accepted the United Nations' peace Resolution 598. The two countries held an ample amount of direct and indirect talks over the past two years especially since recent months when the two began exchanging letters.

The Iraqi goodwill, however, will certainly beget Iranian goodwill as Tehran firmly believes in reciprocating gestures of goodwill. And this, however, is a very significant event with bearings on regional developments.

Peace between the two regional powers is certainly conducive to peace, stability and security for the whole region.

Iran and Iraq share many common interests in the region. An important area of cooperation along these interests is provided within the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Besides, Iraq's acceptance of the 1975 Algiers Accord should also be viewed as a move corroborating the position of international accords and laws. And this is what the region needs most at present.

It took however a long time for Iraq to come up with the right decision. But this new diplomatic victory Iran has gained since yesterday's broadcast of the Iraqi president's letter also reflects the Iraqi positions and the steadfastness of the Iranian officials and their right emphasis on international laws and instruments.

Now in this very sensitive juncture, with a lasting peace just round the corner, it is hoped that the responsible officials and policy makers of the nation will adopt a most suitable approach to the current crisis of the region. By drawing a clearcut line between regional issues and Iran's national interests the political leaders of this nation should not allow the country to get involved in a crisis that might prove detrimental to our own national itnerest and security. August 15 will go down in history as a very significant day for both Iranian and Iraqi nations.

Iran-Iraq conflict and Iraq-Kuwait conflict however are the two major problems the region now has on its hands. The former, which dragged the region into some eight years of explosive tension-laden years, seems to be finally nearing its end. This is absolutely to the interests of all nations in this part of the world. The latter has started early this month and it is earnestly hoped that this too will soon be settled.

Long-Term Effects Listed

NC3008190190 Tehran ETTELA'T in Persian 8 Aug 90 p 16

[Political commentary by A. Marvi: "The Long-Term Effects of Iraq's Occupation of Kuwait"]

[Excerpts] Ten years after the Iraqi Armed Forces' attack on Iran, the Ba'hist aggressor's war machine occupied Kuwaiti territory, toppled the al-Sabahs, and provided an example of "fraternal hostility," which confronted the sensitive Persian Gulf region with a new crisis. This time, the tale of hostility among brothers revealed that the claims of an "Arab nation" are a myth, and has created new priorities in the policies of the regional states.

The repercussions of Iraq's usurpation of Kuwait—despite the united condemnation by the international community—will not be confined to the coming to power of a government which is an appendage of Ba'thist Iraq in Kuwait or the direct or indirect domination of the Ba'thist leaders over the massive oil resources of this diminutive shaykhdom.

The Iraqi action has in fact changed the geopolitical character and the balance of regional forces in such way that its consequences will be felt over a long period of time.

By usurping Kuwaiti territory, the Ba'thist Armed Forces transformed a landlocked country into a country with a considerable coastline. This will only serve to bolster Iraq's expansionist ambitions in the Persian Gulf and endanger the stability and national security of the littoral states. [passage omitted]

The fate of the puppet government appointed by Iraq in Kuwait depends on the Iraqi Armed Forces' continued presence in Kuwait and Saddam seems to have prepared himself for enduring the harmful effects of his action—for the sake of reaping the greatest possible benefits in the medium term.

The international community's indifference to the Ba'thist forces' aggression against Iran and the igniting of the conflagration of an eight-year war and to the supply of financial assistance to the Ba'thist Armed Forces by most of the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries, including Kuwait, were instrumental in creating the conditions which brought the region face to face with another crisis.

The consequences of Iraq's usurpation of Kuwait will not remain limited to an increase in the price of oil as a result of the withdrawal of at least 4 million barrels per

day from the international oil market, the upheaval in the oil situation as regards the oil resoures of the littoral states of the Persian Gulf in the interim, the spurring of divisions in the Arab world, and the endangering of the Iran-Iraq peace talks. [passage omitted]

It is obvious that the United States will not suffer any losses from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait; in fact, it will benefit in some ways in the long term. Kuwait is a tasty morsel the United States is dangling on its line to hook Saddam and Iraq, but at the same time its actions will have a calming effect on Eastern and Western Europe which is in the throes of unification and will continue to need the Persian Gulf oil resources at inexpensive prices for a long time.

On the basis of the above, it can be said: The United States will refrain from any direct action against Iraq, unless its interests in Saudi Arabia are threatened. This indicates that the chasm in the balance of international forces continues to widen, and long-range instability threatens the region. The only way to combat this state of affairs is to accelerate the process of cooperation among the regional countries within a new security framework and without Western assistance. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will definitely shatter the military and political structure of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Cooperation Counci, and will culminate in the creation of a trend toward the forging of regional bilateral accords.

The occupation of Kuwait by the Iraqi Armed Forces—which one might have thought would have been exhausted and suffering from low morale after eight years of war with Iran—and their involvement in a fresh conflict has proved that political commitments do not provide an enduring guarantee for regional equilibrium.

On the other hand, there is no guarantee that even after the exit of the usurpist Iraqi forces in Kuwait, the al-Sabah family will be reinstated. This attack has served to strengthen hitherto unrecognized political forces which exist in all the Arab littoral states of the Persian Gulf. These forces can evolve into a permanent source of crises in a region which above all needs peace and security for its economic expansion.

Implications for Region

NC3008211090 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 11 Aug 90 p 2

[Political commentary by Zahra' 'Alavi: "The Implications of the Kuwait Crisis"]

[Excerpts] More than a week has passed since the Iraqi military aggression against and annexation of Kuwaiti territory. From this point of view, the Persian Gulf has become the focus of a crisis which has attracted the attention of all nations, particularly the countries of the region. In view of the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran controls the northern coast of the Persian Gulf, there is no doubt that every development or change near its borders will be followed intensively and with immense sensitivity.

With the announcement of the unification of the two countries of Iraq and Kuwait, which has changed the political geography of the Middle East, we will examine a few points:

1. Thirty years ago, when the independence of Kuwait was announced, the then military dictator of Iraq sent a telegram to Kuwaiti Amir "Shaykh 'Abdallah Salim al-Sabah" congratulating him on becoming the governor of the southern province of Iraq!

Such precedents indicate that Iraq never officially recognized Kuwait as an independent country and the Baghdad leaders have always cast avaricious glances at the oil-rich shaykhdom which they see as an integral part of their country, an extension of the southern part of Basra. It was this factor that has been a constant source of political friction and military confrontation between the two countries.

2. During the eight-year-long war with Iran, Iraq had expected to make Khuzestan secede—referring to it by the ambiguous name of "Arabestan"—so that it could acquire control of its oil resources. It had hoped that by persisting in this policy it would acquire a considerable coastline and, by weakening the Islamic Republic, be able to assert power and leadership in the Persian Gulf. However, Iraq failed in these designs, which also cost it dearly. So it set out to compensate for these losses, and embarked on an occupation of Kuwait to recoup these losses.

3. The dream of becoming the leader of the Arab world and of dominating the Persian Gulf region can be considered the motivating factor behind Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The world's indifference in the face of Iraq's aggression against Iran gave Saddam the impression that all his actions would be treated with similar indifference and silence by the international community. Undoubtedly, if 10 years ago the world nations had reacted as they are now and if the Iraqi aggression against Iran had been met with the same wave of condemnation of "the aggressor" and "the aggression" that we have seen recently, Saddam would have been more farsighted about the consequences of his latest actions.

In any case, with the occupation of Kuwait, Saddam believes that he has acquired an outlet for the export of oil from the Persian Gulf and has also gained a strategic base by gaining access to the long-coveted islands of Warbah and Bubiyan. Similarly, Iraq believes that its military action against Kuwait has also absolved its responsibility for paying its debts to Kuwait, and it hopes to fill the empty coffers of this country of 18 million people by pillaging Kuwait's petrodollars. Eventually, with the help of important factors to consolidate his national power, such as enormous wealth, a favorable

geopolitical location, a strong army, and an appropriately sized population, Saddam hopes to be able to realize his dream of the leadership of the Arab world with regard to the countries of the region.

4. The Iraqi aggression against Kuwait also proved that the Arab countries do not have any unity among themselves and are incapable of resolving any problems which may crop up in any of the countries in their region. The presence of American warships in the Persian Gulf, the movements of warships of Western countries such as France, Great Britain, and Australia, and finally "the breaking of the dishes at the luncheon for Arab leaders in Cairo over the heads of the Kuwaiti delegation and the fainting of the Kuwait foreign minister" are all proof of the inability of the Arabs to resolve such problems!

Basically, it is because the Arabs do not attach any importance to the role of the "non-Arab" Muslim countries such as Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey that they are confronted with such disunity and polarization, which has given the domineering greater powers the opportunity to infiltrate the region. [passage omitted]

5. In its capacity as the founder of the Gulf Cooperation Council and as one of the closest allies of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia took no action on its own. By requesting assistance from the United States, it proved its absolute impotence and inertia and the extent of its dependence on assistance from the United States.

Moreover, by increasing its oil production and permitting the deployment of U.S. forces on its territory, Saudi Arabia has further proved its utter subservience and dependence on the United States. [passage omitted]

6. The multilateral condemnation of aggression by the countries of the world, the passing of Resolutions 660 and 661 by the Security Council, and the unanimity of all the countries in condemning Iraq's annexation of Kuwait are, however, positive points which merit attention in view of the indifference with which the international community has treated aggression and aggressors in the present century. [passage omitted]

Judicial Official To Address Kurdish Unrest

NC3008192490 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Following report of increasing unrest in Kurdish-inhabited areas of western Azerbaijan and Kordestan, Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the regime's Judiciary, left for Reza'iyeh. It has been reported that Yazdi has gone to the area for talks with the Kurdish leaders of Reza'iyeh. He hopes that he can halt the killing of the Revolution Guards by armed Kurds. For the past few months, armed Kurds have been staging numerous ambushes and have attacked and killed hundreds of the regime's Revolution Guards and seized their arms and miltiary equipment.

*Escalation in Armed Fighting in Kordestan

90AS0345A London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] In recent weeks there was a striking increase in armed clashes between the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran and the revolutionary guards.

According to the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran, the clashes in Kordestan took place in Piranshahr, Naqdeh, Mehabad, Bukan, Oshoviyeh, Saqez, Reza'iyeh, Salmas, and Sardasht. During these clashes, which occurred between 6 June and 19 July, 315 revolutionary guards have been killed and 148 were taken prisoner.

A statement from the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran confirmed that 17 Kurdish combatants were killed.

The Islamic Republic regime prevents the publication of news concerning clashes in Kordestan and the killing of revolutionary guards. The only effect of these clashes reflected in the press were reports on funerals for revolutionary guards killed in fighting, and in these reports there was no mention of the place of the "martyrdom" of the revolutionary guards.

Among the revolutionary guards killed recently in Kordestan are Mokhtar Farahani, Hojjatollah Bakhtiari, and Esma'il Chahardowli. The funerals for all three were held in the municipality of Molayer, and the news was published in the newspaper RESALAT.

*Opposition Radio Broadcasts Resume in Egypt

90AS0345C London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] The opposition radio stations, Radio Darafsh-e Kaviani and Radio Iran (the National Resistance Front of Iran), whose broadcasts were stopped by order of the Egyptian government during a visit to Egypt by an Iranian delegation, have resumed operation, and their programming was broadcast on Saturday, aimed inside the country as usual.

The Egyptian government asked these organizations to stop broadcasting against the Islamic Republic for 10 days, because the continuation of these broadcasts by these two radio stations with the Islamic delegation in Cairo could cause problems. The delegation from the Islamic Republic, led by Hojjat ol-Eslam Taskhiri, had gone to Cairo to take part in the conference of Islamic foreign ministers.

After this delegation went to Cairo, it was said that the Islamic Republic regime would free a number of Egyptian prisoners captured by Iranian forces during the war with Iraq.

*Government Asks Assistance To Rebuild Schools

90AS0345B London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] The chief of the National Construction, Expansion, and Equipment of Schools Organization asked the

people for help rebuilding the schools destroyed by the earthquakes in Gilan and Mazandaran.

Jalil Habibollahian announced that 2,000 schools were destroyed in the earthquake-stricken areas and 200,000 students have been left without classrooms. He emphasized that the Islamic government cannot rebuild the destroyed schools and that this task will get nowhere without the serious assistance of the people.

The chief of the National Construction, Expansion, and Equipment of Schools Organization announced that those who wish to take part in rebuilding the schools in the earthquake-stricken areas may help the people in this charitable task by obtaining technical plans. The Ministry of Education and Training will provide these people with a technical supervisor and as many materials as possible.

Habibollahian asked those wishing to help rebuild schools to call 272778 in Tehran.

*Public Asked To Help Meet Education Costs

90AS0345D London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Aug 90 p 3

[Text] With no more than two months remaining before the beginning of the new academic year, the Islamic Republic's minister of education and training announced that the government does not have the money to meet the costs of carrying out the nation's educational programs.

He called upon each person to donate as much money as possible when registering children in the elementary and secondary schools.

Najafi, the Islamic Republic's minister of education and training, who this Saturday announced the regime's inability to meet the costs of carrying out the nation's educational programs, said that in any case the Ministry of Education and Training would carry out its responsibilities, "but the people must participate in this matter, and they must cooperate with the schools financially and otherwise."

The comments of the minister of education and training are such that they clearly open the door to putting pressure on the mothers and fathers of students and taking money from them, and although under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic education must be free from the elementary to higher levels and the Islamic government must provide the resources for free education, parents of students are now being pressured for direct popular assistance, and are being unlawfully forced to pay.

On the other hand, the lack of regulations for collecting tuition from students have restrained school principals from taking as much money as possible from the people.

*Blackouts Reportedly Lasting 12 Hours

90AS0345E London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] In the 42 degrees centigrade heat of Tehran and many of the nation's other cities, life and factory and workshop operations have been brought to a standstill by lengthy power blackouts. Electrical power outages have lasted up to 12 hours in Tehran and have reached 16 hours throughout Azarbaijan.

With the cutoff of electrical power, traffic control lights have stopped working and lengthy traffic jams in the unbearable heat have resulted. There are long lines of automobiles at gasoline pumps and even the printing of newspapers in the capital has been interrupted.

In many parts of the capital, especially in West Tehran and the Gisha area, the lack of electricity leads to the lack of water, and the people line up in front of bakeries that have neither electricity nor water to bake with, hoping that the electricity and the water will begin to flow again.

The cutoff of electricity brings losses of millions of tomans every day to factories in and around Tehran. Last Sunday [29 July] electricity in Tehran was cut off in many areas for more than 12 hours. Seven hours after the power was cut off the Ministry of Energy issued a statement announcing that the reason for the long electrical cutoff was a technical problem at a power relay station.

Long electrical power outages are not limited to Tehran and the municipalities of Central Province. There are more hours of electrical power down time in East and West Azarbaijan than anywhere else. In these two provinces, the people have electrical power only eight out of 24 hours, and that is between midnight and eight AM, when factories do not operate and the people are sleeping. The acting director of Azarbaijan regional electric power expressed the hope that the 16 hours of blackout will gradually be reduced for citizens.

Electrical power outages have also caused serious disorders in Mazandaran, Hamadan, and other parts of the country.

The people are exasperated with repeated and lengthy electrical power blackouts and are complaining to the newspapers about burning electrical appliances, food spoiling inside refrigerators, and inoperative cooling equipment. One person says: I cannot remember blackouts like this for the last 50 years. The people are exasperated this summer. Didn't they promise last year that there would be no power blackouts in the summer of 1369 [21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1991]?

Another Tehran resident says: The losses at food stores caused by electrical power failures go into the millions of rials every day.

The 16-hour electrical power blackouts in Azarbaijan and the 12-hour blackouts in Tehran are happening when the Islamic Republic is claiming in its propaganda

that it produces so much electricity that it is providing electricity to all the nation's villages.

*Latest on Earthquake Damages to Housing

90AS0345F London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] The Gilan Province Disaster Organization has announced the latest estimated statistics on the losses to residential units caused by the Gilan earthquake as of the middle of the month of Tir [22 June-22 July] as follows:

Name of Municipality	Units with under 30 percent damage	Units with over 30 percent damage	Number of Villages
Fuman	1398	8438	110
Rudsar	2997	8540	370
Langrud	260	797	50
Astaneh Ashrafiyeh	1840	861	56
Talesh	905	369	166
Rasht	3564	5348	183
Lahijan	4587	6876	250
Sume'eh Sara	1000	1500	115
Anzali	200	100	30
	16751	33739	1300

In addition, the numbers of residential and commercial units destroyed in the Municipality of Rudbar were 33,004 units 100 percent destroyed.

Nepal & Bhutan

Interim Government To Present New Constitution

BK3008084790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0714 GMT 30 Aug 90

[By Marie-France Rouze]

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 30 (AFP)—Nepal's interim government on Sunday will present King Birendra with a new constitution which will cement the transformation of this absolute monarchy into a parliamentary democracy.

But the draft constitution must also attempt to placate a privileged right-wing which has ruled the country for 30 years and a republican extreme left, both of which are opposed, for different reasons, to the fledgling constitutional monarchy.

"We don't know what the reactions will be," Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai said in an interview here Wednesday. "I think the reactions will be good." He acknowledged, however, that "things are quite fluid because everyone thinks he should get something out of the changes." Mr. Bhattarai, a senior leader of the Nepali Congress Party, was appointed premier by the King in April, after 10 weeks of violent protests for democracy that left 500 people dead and more than 1,000 wounded.

The cabinet also includes members of the United Leftist Front (ULF), which groups seven communist parties, as well as some independents. But not everyone in Kathmandu is convinced that the presentation of the new constitution, drafted by a panel of nine experts appointed by the King at Mr. Bhattarai's recommendation, will be a quiet affair.

There could be "some difficulties" in the next few days, Home and Communication Minister Yog Prasad Upadhyay said. The democratic constitution "will state clearly that the sovereignty resides in the people," Mr. Bhattarai said, although it will do so tactfully. It will also point out that "his majesty has gracefully handed over his sovereignty to his people."

The king's recognition that sovereignty comes from the people was one of the demands of this year's democracy movement in Nepal, an impoverished country of 18.4 million people nestled in the Himalayas between China and India. The central demand of the movement was the legalization of political parties, which had been banned for 30 years under the non-party system of Panchayats, or councils. Among other delicate points in the constitution is the question of emergency powers.

As far as Mr. Bhattarai is concerned, "the head of state should have this power, but the cabinet should decide." The control of the army, which had been called in to crush the pro-democracy movement, was another key item addressed by the new constitution. It would come under a "national security council including the prime minister, the defense minister and the military secretary to his majesty."

Legislative power will be exercized by a bicameral parliament with a lower house of some 200 elected deputies. Under the preceding constitution, a unicameral parliament consisted of 28 royal appointees and 112 members elected on a non-party basis. Half of the members of the upper house will be named by the king, upon the recommendation of the government, and will only be empowered to delay the passage of laws, according to Mr. Bhattarai.

While some sceptics here fear that King Birendra will try to reclaim some of his lost power, the prime minister simply said: "I trust him." Members of the ruling clique may be less willing to give up the trappings of power, he agreed. "They have ruled 30 years. This might have created some vested interests around the palace but the King himself has declared in unequivocal terms that he will be a constitutional king and it will be a multiparty system. "If the constitution is approved... And we have elections in six or eight months time, then we will have stability, I hope," Mr. Bhattarai said.

Mr. Upadhyay affirmed that "the bulk of the people will accept the constitution," adding however that "there is a small section, including militant groups, who might not accept it." "During the protest movement we taught

them how to break the rules," said Mr. Upadhyay, who was himself jailed for two months before the democracy movement succeeded.

"Once people have started to take the rules in their own hands, it's hard to stop them," he said referring to a handful of extreme leftists who are demanding the abolition of the monarchy, even a constitutional one. Sahana Pradhan, commerce and industry minister and head of the ULF, added that opposition was also coming from right-wing elements close to the royal palace. "They have been trying to bring to people's minds that it (democracy) won't work." But she added optimistically: "that's natural. Nobody is willing to give up his power."

More Than 70 Die in Flooding 30 Aug

BK3108013690 Hong Kong AFP in English 2113 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug. 30 (AFP)—Torrential rains and heavy flooding in Nepal have left 71 people dead, independent sources said, although the government Thursday only confirmed 31 deaths. Prakash Kaphley, general secretary of the Forum for Protection of Human Rights, said local offices of his organization had reported 71 deaths and that 26 bodies had been recovered in Chitaun, 190 kilometers (115 miles) south of Kathmandu, and Butwal, 290 kilometers (180 miles) southwest of the capital.

Nepal's home minister, Yog Prasad Upadhyay, inspected the districts affected by the flooding and landslides to assess the damage and loss of life inflicted by the weekend flooding and to monitor relief efforts, officials said. The government as of Thursday would only confirm 31 deaths.

Mr. Kaphley said his organization had distributed salt, rice and clothing to the victims of the flooding and landslides. A home ministry source said local authorities in the flood stricken areas of Chitaun Makwanpur, Dhading, Butwal Nawalparasi and parts of Kathmandu valley had been mobilized to help rescue efforts.

Officials said feverish efforts were under way to reopen two major highways connecting Kathmandu which were badly damaged by the landslides and floods in Sunday's rains. A spokesman for the Ministry of Public Works and Transport said authorities were working around the clock to repair a washed out section of the Prithivi highway, 130 kilometers (80 miles) south of the capital, and a part of the Tribhuvan highway, 120 kilometers (80 miles) south of the capital.

Officials said that if the highways, cut since the rainstorms, were not reopened by late Friday, the capital would face shortages. A police source said over 180 travellers were stranded on the highways and that 10 foreigners had been airlifted to safety by Army helicopters.

Pakistan

Jatoi Says Gulf Contingent Not Commanded by U.S.

BK3008154290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Musatafa Jatoi has said that we have made enough progress toward the realization of all priorities fixed by the government, including holding of elections, accountability, and the restoration of law and order. In a interview with PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL in Karachi today, the prime minister said the tribunals have already been announced and the cases will be presented to these tribunals within a day or two, which will end the unnecessary doubts being expressed regarding accountability.

Answering a question about the progress in talks among various political parties to field common candidates in the forthcoming elections, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that positive talks had been held among all parties so far. He expressed the hope that consensus will be reached to field common or agreed candidates. He added that the people have rejected the Pakistan People's Party and its leadership and it now stands exposed before the people.

The prime minister said the Pakistan military contingents now being sent to Saudi Arabia will not be under American command, but will be part of the Islamic countries' forces.

The prime minister expressed the hope that the Indian troops now concentrated on the Pakistan border will withdraw to the peace-time position so that a tension-free atmosphere is created. He said Pakistan expects that positive results will be achieved at the next round of talks between the foreign secretaries of the two countries.

Accountability To Cover All Former Officials

BK3008164690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The information minister today talked to newsmen after hosting a luncheon for media representatives in Islamabad. She told them that the accountability process is being initiated soon according to the law so that no one objects. She added that the accountability process will not be confined to the Pakistan People's Party leaders, but would cover all former members of the National Assembly and provincial assemblies and senators. She said the president will definitely refer each case wherever he finds malpractice without looking into who was guilty of it. It is up to the courts to hold somebody guilty or not. The government, on its part, is determined to make the accountability process just and impartial.

Sayeda Abida Hussain said President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has acted with extreme caution in all matters and has taken all care that all his steps are according to the legal requirements.

Charges Prepared Against Bhutto, Zardari

BK3008115390 Karachi DAWN in English 30 Aug 90 p 1

[From Ihtashamul Haque]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 29—The Special Cell, headed by Federal Minister without Portfolio, Mr Ruedad Khan, has completed chargesheets against former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, her father in-law, Hakim Ali Zardari and a number of former Federal Ministers it was reliably learnt here on Wednesday.

According to informed sources, the former Prime Minister and Chaudhri Aitzaz Ahsan, former Interior Minister, were likely to be charged with allegedly "passing sensitive information on to India".

Mr Hakim Ali Zadari is expected to be charged with acquiring bank loans "improperly" and also for being "involved" in the Lakeview Hotel project scandal.

Mr Iftikhar Gilani and Mr Tariq Rahim too are similarly charged—acquiring bank loans without proper collaterals.

Jehangir Badar is alleged to have asked for commission on oil concession deals from foreign Ambassadors, while his colleague Amir Hyder Kazmi is alleged to have taken money from Pharmaceutical Companies in return for allowing them price increases.

Mr Faisal Saleh Hayat is said to have made money in rice and cotton export deals.

The sources said the Special Cell had collected "hard evidence" in all these matters and "finalised the cases to be forwarded to the Special Tribunals set up recently to try the former elected representatives.

Explaining the reasons for the postponement of the Press conference by Ruedad Khan and Rafi Raza earlier on Monday, the sources said that the Government did not want to go to the Press with only circumstantial evidence." Now it has hard evidence, which will be produced before the Special Tribunals". [quotation marks as published]

Mr Khan and Minister for Production Rafi Raza here on Wednesday reportedly attended a meeting in a bid to finalise "arrangements" to expose corruption and malpractices of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] regime through judicial tribunals, expected to start functioning from the first week of September.

In this regard, it was also learnt that the Establishment was trying to "persuade" some of the Government officials, who had served on important posts during PPP regime, to appear before the judicial tribunals and give evidence against the PPP Ministers and legislators.

Sources close to the Aiwan-i-Sadr [Presidency] have said that accountability will be conducted without being seen as biased and that it will not be a one-sided show. In this regard, they said, after the judgment given by the judicial tribunals, the Supreme Court could always be approached by the convicted persons to seek remedy.

Meanwhile, a section of the Establishment is believed to have advised the government against the implications of the one-sided accountability exercise, asserting that it could be counter- productive.

A second list of possible cases against IJI Ministers and members is also being mentioned among official circles here to dispel the the impression that the Government is not being even-handed.

Knowledgeable sources, therefore, do not rule out the possibility of cases of a number of IJI members, including the ex-Chief Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif, being referred to the judical tribunals.

Minister Replies to U.S. Senator's Concern

BK3008164790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister Sayed Abida Hussain has reiterated the present government's determination to continue the democratic process in the country in all circumstances in which all political parties will be involved without any hinderance. She said this in a letter to U.S. Senator Joseph R. Biden who had expressed concern regarding the relations between the United States and Pakistan due to the dismissal of Benazir Bhutto's government. She said it should be kept under consideration that the only aim of the president's dissolution of assemblies and his determination to hold free and fair elections is to prevent reimposition of dictatorship in the country.

New Foreign Secretary Assumes Office 30 Aug

BK3008165890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Mr Shaharyar M. Khan today assumed charge as the foreign secretary.

PPP To Forge Alliance With Tehrik-i-Istiqlal

BK3108094090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] According to the PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL, the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Party have decided to forge an electoral alliance. The decision was made at a meeting between the PPP cochairperson, Benazir Bhutto, and the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal party chief, retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, in Islamabad yesterday.

Editorial Urges Dialogue With Saddam Husayn

BK3008120190 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 30 Aug 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Saddam's offer"]

[Text] Iraq has more or less achieved the objective for which it suddenly broke off negotiations with Kuwait in the Saudi capital and sent its troops into the Emirate a day later. It followed up with the installation of a "free provisional government" in the occupied country only to announce its annexation on August 8. And now President Saddam Husayn has come up with a decree declaring Kuwait to be the 19th Governorate of his country thereby extending his border up to Al-Abdalli on the border between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. He has put the entire territory under his administration finding an easy solution to his country's economic problems. Iraq would now be controlling a third of the total oil production of the Gulf area.

Despite all the calls made by the Arab League, the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] and UNO, President Saddam Husayn has been pushing ahead with his plans and has refused to withdraw from Kuwait. The economic blockade authorised by the UN Security Council has also had no effect on him so far. Although shipments of food to Iraq through the Jordanian port of Aqaba have fallen and supplies through the land route are almost nil, the situation stays where it was. Acceptance of Iraq's demand that all foreign troops deployed in Saudi Arabia and along the Gulf should first withdraw is dependent upon Iraq's own withdrawal from Kuwait. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has assured that once that is done all the Arabs will collaborate and stand as one to ask all foreign troops to leave. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has also evolved some formula to resolve the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework. That is how it should be. The only stumbling block in all these efforts is Iraq's refusal to let go of its hold over Kuwait. Maybe UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is able to achieve some success in his current peace mission to the Middle East. He is due to meet Iraqi Foreign Miniser Tariq 'Aziz in Amman. It is only through talks that a peaceful solution of the problem can be found. In this regard, the latest statement of the Iraqi President brings a ray of hope. He is reported to have said, "I'm prepared for direct talks, dialogue, with Mr. Bush and Mrs. Thatcher immediately." It is now up to the USA and Britain to revise their hardline, take President Saddam Husayn at his word, and initiate a dialogue with him. Whatever the prospects, talks must begin before the dreaded shooting starts. For, after the latter there will be nothing to salvage from the imbroglio.

477 Nationals Repatriated 30 Aug From Gulf

BK3008165390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Another 477 stranded Pakistanis in Riyadh and Amman were flown back to Karachi today by three special flights of Pakistan International Airlines [PIA]. So far PIA has brought 9,200 Pakistanis home. Four more flights will be operated tomorrow from Amman and Riyadh to Karachi to repatriate another 950 stranded Pakistanis.

The overland repatriation of Pakistanis from Kuwait is also continuing. So far about 4,000 Pakistanis have returned home overland. Most of them are arriving at the border district of (Dastan) from Kuwait via Iraq, Turkey and Iran.

10 Killed, 32 Injured in Two Bomb Blasts 30 Aug

BK3008161790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Seven persons were killed and six others injured when a bomb exploded in a compartment of a rail-car going to Lahore at (Kalyanawam) railway station. According to railway authorities the explosion took place at 1640 this afternoon. The rail-car had left Rawalpindi at 1500. Medical staff and ambulance vehicles were rushed to the explosion site to provide medical aid to the injured.

Another bomb explosion took place in the business area of Dhaula Bazar in Faysalabad in which three persons were killed and 26 others injured. Eight shops were damaged.

Sri Lanka

Government To Abide by UN Iraq Sanctions

BK3008125690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0945 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Colombo, Aug 30 (AFP)—Sri Lanka has decided to comply with a United Nations resolution that bans all trade with Baghdad, a senior minister announced here Thursday. "We have been told by the U.N. that there can be no exception," Cabinet spokesman Ranjan Wijeratne told a weekly press briefing. "So we have decided to comply (with the resolution) as a member of the U.N."

The mandatory U.N. sanctions, passed by the Security Council in the wake of Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, bans virtually all trade with Iraq. But Sri Lanka had been trying to seek U.N. clarification on whether its tea, a main export to Iraq, could be classified as a food item. Food and medicines have been exempted from the U.N. sanctions.

Mr. Wijeratne, who is also plantations minister, had told reporters shortly after the resolution was passed that Sri Lanka, being a poor country, would continue to sell tea to Iraq and said sanctions were only for the rich nations. The spokesman said that Colombo has informed Baghdad of the U.N. ruling and attributed Iraq's absence at the weekly tea auctions here on Tuesday to the Sri Lankan Government's decision.

Mr. Wijeratne also said that the Finance Ministry would take up the matter of compensation for the losses in tea exports with international monetary institutions. A senior official of the Sri Lanka Tea Board said it was too early to say how Colombo's decision would affect the tea market but previous auctions had shown that when Iraq did not buy, the market was adversely affected.

Mr. Wijeratne said that future prices would depend on the volume and demand generated at the tea market. The Sri Lankan Government had told the U.N. that if Sri Lanka was to abide by the embargo, the local tea industry would suffer heavy losses as Iraq was a major buyer of Sri Lankan tea. Iraq purchases some 2,500 million rupees (62.5 million dollars) worth of tea annually from the Indian Ocean island, the second largest buyer of Sri Lanka tea after Egypt.

In a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Foreign Minister Harold Herat has said that the implementation of the U.N. sanctions would impose "major economic hardships for Sri Lanka." Mr. Herat also said that if the large number of Sri Lankan workers employed in the Middle East were to return as a result of the Gulf crisis, the social and economic consequences "would be considerable." More than 80,000 Sri Lankans, mostly housemaids, work in Kuwait and more than 400,000 others are employed elsewhere in the Middle East. Hundreds of Sri Lankans have fled Kuwait to neighbouring countries from where they hope to return home.

Iraq, Arabs To Give Information on Citizens

BK3008132790 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Iraq and all Arab countries have agreed to provide information to the Red Cross regarding Sri Lankans in Kuwait and other Arab countries. The Red Cross Society hopes it will be able to provide this information within the next fortnight. A Red Cross Society statement to the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation says it has received over 65,000 inquiries regarding Sri Lankans in the Middle East. Over 55,000 of these inquiries have been handed over to the Red Cross Society's headquarters. About 10,000 requests have been received from Kandy, Kurunegala, Matara, Galle, Hambantota, Monaragala, and Amparai. The Red Cross Society says that if Sri Lankans in the Middle East wish to contact their parents, spouses, or relatives, they could do so by addressing their requests to the Red Crescent branches in Amman, Baghdad, or Kuwait.

LTTE Damages Helicopters, Foils Rescue Attempt

BK3008110890 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, Tamil militants damaged two helicopters and forced government troops to abort an attempt to rescue 41 wounded soldiers from a besieged army camp in northeastern Sri Lanka. Military officials said in Colombo that mortar fire by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants hit the two helicopters on the ground after they landed inside a military camp at Mullaitivu Town. Five soldiers have been killed and 41 injured since the militants besieged a military camp at Mullaitivu 10 weeks ago.

Meanwhile, efforts by the government troops to retrieve about 250 soldiers from the Jaffna Fort suffered a setback as militants blew up several bridges and culverts yesterday.

Steps Taken To Combat LTTE Drug Trafficking

BK3008113990 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0756 GMT 30 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, August 30 (LANKAPUVATH)—Interpol is assisting and working in close collaboration with the Sri Lanka police narcotics bureau to prevent a resurgence of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] narco terrorism, a few instances of which have been already reported. Police sources told LANKAPUVATH that all international airports have been alerted to maintain maximum vigilance to detect cases of LTTE narco terrorism where large consignments of heroin are smuggled into European countries mainly Italy, France, UK, Spain, Belgium and even Bulgaria, the proceeds are used to finance brutal LTTE terrorism in Sri Lanka.

Police said that over 300 LTTE narco terrorists are now serving jail terms in Western European countries. The police sources said the routes and means of smuggling by the terrorists were devious. They used under false names forged passports of different countries. It was found that the heroin was shipped largely from the Indian Sub Continent and was purchased in West Asia. They said investigations revealed Sri Lanka was being used by LTTE narco terrorists as a transit country for heroin routed via India. According to investigations, the total quantity of heroin illicitly brought into Sri Lanka is far in excess of the local heroin dependent population of about 40,000 addicts. The quantity of heroin seized during the last one year at the Colombo International Airport, Katunayake is four fold that of the previous year. The offenders arrested too, has increased from 6,353 to 7,172, the sources said.

Security Forces Consolidate Northeast Positions

BK3008124190 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] The security forces further consolidated their positions both in the northern and eastern provinces during the 24 hours ending yesterday. The Ministry of Defense in a communique says in the islands of Kayts and Mandaitivu, security forces have given security clearance for the restoration of civil administration. Sixty tons of rice, 20 tons of flour, 20 tons of sugar, and 15 tons of dal [beans], as well as emergency medical supplies have been dispatched by ship. Further stocks will be sent immediately as an influx of refugees from the Jaffna Peninsula to Kayts and Mandaitivu islands is expected soon.

It is reported that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists have enforced an extortion campaign in

which every family has to give two gold sovereigns and two youth or teenage children to be conscripted. It is therefore understandable that the innocent and peace-loving people of the Jaffna Peninsula are anxiously waiting to free themselves from the clutches of the terrorists.

The Defense Ministry communique adds that security forces and police posts at the central camp in the Amparai District were attacked by the LTTE terrorists. This attack was repulsed. A large group of LTTE terrorists attempted to attack the farmers in the 12th Colony area. The security forces and the police ambushed and attacked these terrorists, killing six of them and recovering their weapons. The security forces reported that one soldier died and two soldiers and three police constables were injured.

The security forces also carried out operations in the Malwatta and (Manpottam) areas of the Amparai District. In these operations, six terrorists were killed and their weapons, grenades, ammunition, and radio equipment recovered.

According to the communique, the security forces carried out several cordon and search operations in the Batticaloa area. They encountered small groups of LTTE terrorists in Kattankudi and Kalladi. One LTTE terrorist was killed. A civilian was killed in the cross fire. Ammunition, grenades, and booby traps were recovered in these operations. In (Nurodai) in the east, security forces in a search operation recovered four motorcycles that had been robbed from the civilians. In (Mandaramullai), the security forces then ambushed and killed four LTTE terrorists. Their rifles, ammunition, and equipment have been recovered. Two soldiers received minor injuries in this encounter.

The LTTE terrorists fired mortars and small arms into the Jaffna Fort and the army camps at Kankesanturai, Elephant Pass, and Vasavilan. In Mullaitivu, the LTTE terrorists continued to fire mortars into the army camp and the police station. One soldier was killed.

Wijeratne Says Troops Rescued From Jaffna Fort

BK3008124890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0913 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Colombo, Aug 30 (AFP)—Sri Lankan Air Force helicopters evacuated some 40 troops from a besieged army camp in the north amid heavy rebel fire, Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said Thursday. "There was a lot of firing" during the rescue at Mullaitivu Army Camp on Wednesday, Mr. Wijeratne told reporters at a weekly Cabinet press briefing. Independent confirmation of the rescue was not immediately available.

"Quite a lot of terrorists died," Mr. Wijeratne said, referring to guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who have been battling government troops in the island's northeast since June 11. Military officials said Wednesday that the Air Force might try to carry out operations on Thursday or Friday to get the wounded soldiers out of the Mullaitivu Camp which has been continuously mortar bombed during the past week.

"The soldiers suffered injuries after the Mullaitivu Camp came under continuous fire from the guerrillas during the past week killing at least five soldiers," Mr. Wijeratne said. The minister said that helicopters also unloaded food, fresh troops and ammunition before taking away the injured men to nearby Anuradhapura hospital.

A military official here would not comment on the minister's claim except saying that there were no further details on an evacuation attempt by the Air Force on Wednesday. Military sources said earlier Thursday that two helicopters that had landed to pick up the injured soldiers Wenesday were hit by mortar bombs and had been grounded for repairs.

"The mortar bombs exploded in between the helicopters, damaging the rotor and front wind screen of one and causing slight damages to the other," a source said, adding one soldier suffered injuries due to mortar fire. Mr. Wijeratne said the damaged helicopters took off from the camp later.

The LTTE has blockaded some 300 soldiers and policemen inside the camp since fighting broke out across the Tamil-dominated northeast between government troops and the guerrillas. Most army camps in the north, large parts of which are rebel-controlled, have come under siege and Air Force helicopter gunships have frequently strafed LTTE positions around the camps in an effort to rescue trapped troops.

On Tuesday an Air Force helicopter landed outside the besieged Jaffna Fort army camp further north and rescued seven injured servicemen under heavy fire from rebels entrenched in well-fortified bunkers outside. Officials said the guerrillas were attempting to storm the Mullaitivu garrison in a bid to deflect the army's current offensive to relieve the siege on the ancient Dutch fort.

Mullaitivu Camp, lying south of the peninsula, has been under massive attack from Wednesday night, an official said, adding that the rebels used mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms to strike at the military post.

"Mr. Wijeratne said that the Air Force would destroy the LTTE bastions in the Mullaitivu jungles. "We want to smash them up," Mr. Wijeratne said.

Hundreds of heavily-armed Tigers, most of them in their teens, are said to be roaming the Mullaitivu District where dense jungles and lagoons are being used by the rebels to stage their guerrilla warfare. According to unofficial and official sources more than 3,700 people have died in the violence including large numbers of civilians.

Tamil Group Backs Solution on Northeast Problem

BK3008133390 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0704 GMT 30 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, August 30 (LANKAPUVATH)—A delegation from the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) met President Ranasinghe Premadasa at the presidential secretariat yesterday and pledged their party's support to the president and the government in arriving at a speedy political solution to the north-east problem. The delegation comprised Mr. Douglas Devananda, secretary-general; Mr. M. Ashok and Mr. N. Ramesh, central committee members; and Mr. S. Sivatha .. as spokesman.

The delegation, while appreciating the difficulties faced by the government in the current situation, requested the president to ensure that the hardships of the civilian population in the north and east are minimised. They said that although food and medicines are sent to the northern and eastern provinces by the government, distribution to consumers was disrupted by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. It pointed out the need for creating a climate for normal community life to resume and for the civilian administration to recommence functioning, in areas freed from terrorist control. The delegation said that the conditions for restoring the democratic process in the north and east can be achieved only by completely eliminating the forces of fascism.

The president informed the delegation that strict instructions had been given to the armed services to ensure that civilians are protected, in their operations against terrorists. He also said that restoration of the civilian administration in areas freed from terrorists control had already commenced and that this process will continue. He reaffirmed his desire to achieve a resolution to the problem of the north and east through a consensus of all political parties and explained the steps he had taken in seeking such a consensus. In this connection, he said that he was awaiting the response of political parties to certain specific issues which he has placed before them for their views.